

Community Issues Report

FOURTH QUARTER 2009

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

01/3/10

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COMMUNITY ISSUES
10/1/09 – 12/31/09

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED

FOURTH QUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

October 22, 2009

Google plans to launch a music service, Wired.com has confirmed with sources familiar with the situation. Next to nothing is known about the service at this point, rumored to be called "Google Music," "Google Audio," or "One Box," although we have confirmed that it will be announced next Wednesday, and that it will link out to two music services: Lala and iLike. Google will not become a music retailer itself, but will offer enhanced music search with a streaming function -- the first of possibly several vertical search offerings. Searching for an artist or song will apparently bring up a box (thus Google's working title: "One Box") with a streaming link randomly assigned to stream songs from either Lala or iLike, the latter of which was acquired by MySpace in August. Lala, iLike, "and others" will announce the service next Wednesday at Capital Records Music in Hollywood, California, with musical guests OneRepublic plus members of Linkin Park and Dead by Sunrise. The RSVP on the invitation links to an e-mail address at secure online event registration company Paragon New Media, which lists Google as a client. After spotting that, we confirmed with a source close to the situation that Google's upcoming music service will be announced at the event. Google's music search service, whatever it ends up being called, will include music from all four major labels and, most likely, all of the indie content on iLike and Lala (as one insider put it, it would be harder to remove a subset of songs from those services than to let Google simply index all of it). iLike currently streams some songs as 30-second samples and others as full-length songs, and sells MP3s for the usual prices. Lala allows registered users to stream complete songs and albums once, for free, after which point they can buy streaming songs 10 cents that can be credited to the purchase of the full download. At this point, it's not clear how these services will behave when presented through Google's search interface. Google has yet to respond to our requests for comment. The company is also building the back-end for the majors' upcoming Vevo music video service, and operates a free download service in China that TechCrunch says will not resemble whatever Google launches here in the U.S. and possibly elsewhere as well. After this music search product launches next Wednesday, we understand that Google plans to release other search verticals, possibly including a travel booking service.

October 23, 2009

Authorities said that a South Carolina man fearful that explosive materials in a dead relative's home might fall into the wrong hands loaded them into his truck and drove 80 miles to another county to turn them in. Union County Sheriff David Taylor said on Thursday that the man found materials including dynamite, black powder and grenades in his deceased uncle's home. Taylor said the man drove Wednesday to downtown Union to surrender the materials because he lived there and knows him. Authorities closed streets in the area until the explosives could be removed. Lexington County Sheriff's Maj. John Allard said the man's uncle had been a military enthusiast and died within the past week. Taylor said that none of the items were illegal but it wasn't a good idea to transport them. There were no plans to charge the man who dropped off the explosives.

October 23, 2009

Yessica Maher of Los Angeles, California, feels let down. She had wanted to get the H1N1 vaccine for herself and her children, but that's proving to be difficult. Her doctor is out of the vaccine, and so is the pediatrician. Her two older sons were not eligible for the nasal spray version because of asthma, and she was told the shot would not become available until perhaps November. Her youngest son, 2, goes to a preschool where there was recently a diagnosis of H1N1. "I feel that the government and health officials, they knew this was big when it first started, they know the size of our population before it started, and they didn't make leaps and bounds to make sure it was available to everyone when they would need it," she said. "It shouldn't be a supply-and-demand thing." **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** announced last week that production of the vaccine is slower than expected. While the CDC had hoped for 40 million doses by the end of October, the real numbers will be about 30 million doses because of manufacturing delays, said Dr. Anne Schuchat, CDC's director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. Public health departments across the country are quickly running out of H1N1 vaccine and don't know when the next batches will arrive. "We wait by the door every day to see if vaccine is going to come," said Erin Sutton, spokesperson for the Virginia Beach Health Department in Virginia. "With the overall delay from the manufacturing company, [it] has caused a great deal of frustration and problems." A CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll based on interviews with 1,038 adult Americans found that 49 percent of people said the swine flu vaccine is safe, while 43 percent said no. The poll of 1,038 adults was conducted by telephone October 16-18 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. **iReport.com: Getting the vaccine** But not everyone who wants the H1N1 vaccine can get one. The East Metro Health Department near Atlanta, Georgia, gave out all of its approximately 6,000 doses of the FluMist version between Saturday and Tuesday, and has "no idea" when more will arrive, said Suleima Salgado, public information officer for the district. People generally aren't complaining about the lack of vaccine, however, she said. "We were pretty proactive about educating them and letting them know that it was slowly coming in bits and pieces," she said. "We just encouraged them to be patient, and as it continues to come, we'll continue to distribute it." Public health departments have been flooded with calls from people wanting to know where they can get the vaccine. Michelle Peregoy, spokesperson for the Virginia Department of Health, said the department gets about 700 calls a day. In Ventura County, California, the H1N1 hotline was ringing every 2 minutes Wednesday, said Mary Leu Pappas, who teaches nursing and volunteers with the hotline. She typically gets asked where the vaccine is available and why certain people can't get it. Some older people want to know why they are not in the priority group, and Pappas explains that this age group may be less likely to become critically ill because of prior exposure to influenza outbreaks of decades past. In some cases demand has outstripped supply, although more vaccine is on the way, Peregoy said. "We're definitely seeing a lot of the school clinics that have been scheduled postponed until the local health departments get additional shipments," Peregoy said. In Virginia Beach, there isn't enough staff to administer vaccines in all schools, so only public schools are getting them, Sutton said. However, the public health department is making separate opportunities for children in private schools and day care centers to get vaccinated. But at the moment, there is no vaccine available in the community. Polk County, Iowa, ran out of the vaccine last week, but is holding another vaccination clinic on Sunday. "Until the size of our shipments increase we need to focus on the people who are at the greatest risk of becoming hospitalized [if infected]," said Terri Henkels, Polk County Health Department Director, in a statement. Priority groups for the vaccine include pregnant women, caregivers and household contacts of children younger than 6 months, people between the ages of 6 months and 24 years, and anyone ages 25 to 64 with existing health problems. Health care and emergency medical services personnel in contact with high-risk patients, or patients with flu-like illness, are also on the list. "We know there will not be enough of the H1N1 shots for everyone who wants one," she said. Montgomery County, Maryland, is also focusing on the priority groups, although no one can actually be turned away for not being in those groups, said Mary Anderson, public information officer for the health department. **iReport: People wait in line for vaccine in Silver Spring, Maryland** The people who did walk away from clinics Wednesday without a vaccine were those looking for an injectable version, of which only 249 had been available. They showed "a mixture of resignation, sprinkled with frustration -- concern just wondering when we'd be getting more injectable. And we don't know," she said. The county has a little more than 3,000 doses of the nasal spray vaccine left, and no injectable vaccines. For those who have gotten the vaccine, it's a relief. "I feel much better, safer, glad I took another step," said Cameron Harrelson, 16, of Baxley, Georgia, who contributed a video about his experience to iReport.com.

October 22, 2009-11-17

Highly flammable women's robes sold by Blair LLC are now linked to nine deaths, and the company is expanding a recall to include more products imported from the Pakistani manufacturer. Since June, Blair LLC of Warren, Pa., has received four more reports of deaths linked to the full-length women's chenille robes, according to a Thursday announcement from the

Consumer Product Safety Commission. Earlier this year, there were reports of five deaths linked to the robes. The products were initially recalled in April by Blair after it learned of three robes catching on fire, including one report of second-degree burns. Some of the products failed to meet federal flammability standards and they present a risk of serious burns to consumers if the garments are exposed to an open flame. The consumer agency and Blair are expanding the recall to include more chenille robes and three other chenille products, all made by A-One Textile & Towel, of Karachi, Pakistan, according to the consumer agency. Blair received one report involving one of the newly recalled garments catching fire, but no reports of injuries. About 300,000 units of the garments are now recalled, including the full-length women's chenille robes, women's chenille jackets, women's chenille lounge jackets, and women's chenille tops. Most of the deaths linked to the full-length chenille robes occurred when the victims were cooking. The victims were mostly in their 70s and 80s, said CPSC spokesman Scott Wolfson. All nine reported deaths occurred before the April recall announcement. "This robe is highly flammable, flames travel quickly up the robe," said Wolfson. "It's a deadly risk to women." The recalled products were sold in Blair catalogs, online and at Blair stores in Warren, Pa.; Grove City, Pa.; and Wilmington, Del., from July 2000 through April 2007. Most of the newly recalled items were sold before December 2004, the company said in a statement. "Out of an abundance of caution we are recalling these additional products as well," according to the company. "Over the past several months, we have been working aggressively to retrieve the 162,000 chenille robes that were previously recalled." For more information on the affected products and item numbers, consumers can call Blair at 877-392-7095 or visit <http://www.blair.com/recall> or <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

October 23, 2009

A food labeling program created by U.S. manufacturers is being voluntarily halted after federal regulators said it could be misleading to consumers. Companies such as Kraft, Kellogg and [General Mills](#) worked together to launch the "Smart Choices" program earlier this year. The program labels appear on the front of foods that meet certain nutritional standards. The Food and Drug Administration said earlier this week such programs may be misleading consumers about the [health](#) benefits of certain foods. Smart Choices has been criticized because its guidelines allow cereals high in sugar to bear the stamp. Manufacturers that currently use the logo can continue to do so.

November 5, 2009

A 5-year-old was hit by an oncoming car when he tried to cross the road to get on a school bus on Thursday morning, the [South Carolina](#) Highway Patrol said. Troopers said that the boy was crossing the southbound lane of Filter Plant Road to board the stopped bus. They said that the bus had its stop-arm out and lights flashing. They said that another car, driven by 15-year-old Christopher Mauney, hit the child. Cherokee County School District officials said that a second child's backpack was hit by the car's mirror and was knocked down. Mauney was charged with disregarding a stopped school bus. Both children were taken to Upstate Carolina Medical Center, where they were treated for minor injuries and released.

November 9, 2009

Beginning on Tuesday, November 10, free H1N1 flu vaccine is being made available to GCS K3 - 5th grade students through a cooperative effort between Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the School District. Five initial after-school clinics are scheduled for younger [children](#) and staff at those schools since they are at greater risk. After-school vaccination clinics for middle and high school students and staff will be scheduled after vaccination of younger students is completed. Information about H1N1 flu and instructions for children to be vaccinated are being sent home to [parents](#) of elementary school students. Parents must be present at an after-school clinic and complete a Consent Form for their child to be vaccinated. The clinics are will be held from 3:00pm until 8:00pm. Schools Assigned to Armstrong Elementary Clinic Tuesday, November 10 Armstrong, Slater-Marietta, Welcome, Berea, Duncan Chapel, Cherrydale, Northwest Crescent CDC, Heritage, Monaview, Westcliffe, Alexander, Hollis, Gateway Schools Assigned to Taylors Elementary Clinic Thursday, November 12 Taylors, Woodland, Mitchell Road, Lake Forest, Buena Vista, Brushy Creek, Brook Glenn, Paris, Dunbar CDC, Chandler Creek, Crestview, Skyland, Tigerville, Mountain View Schools Assigned to Mauldin Elementary Clinic Friday, November 13 Mauldin, Bethel, Oakview, Bell's Crossing, Rudolph Gordon, Greenbrier, Robert Cashion Schools Assigned to Plain Elementary Clinic Monday, November 16 Plain, Simpsonville, Sue Cleveland, Ellen Woodside, Riley CDC, Fork Shoals, Bryson, Golden Strip CDC, Fountain Inn Schools Assigned to Sara Collins Elementary Clinic Tuesday, November 17 Sara Collins, Pelham Road, East North Street, Washington Center, Sterling, Blythe, Augusta Circle, Overbrook CDC, Greenview CDC, Thomas Kerns, Stone, Grove, Summit Drive.

November 9, 2009

In its first study of women's health around the globe, the World Health Organization said Monday that the AIDS virus is the leading cause of death and disease among women between the ages of 15 and 44. Unsafe sex is the leading risk factor in developing countries for these women of childbearing age, with others including lack of access to contraceptives and iron deficiency, the WHO said. Throughout the world, one in five deaths among women in this age group is linked to unsafe sex, according to the U.N. agency. "Women who do not know how to protect themselves from such infections, or who are unable to do so, face increased risks of death or illness," WHO said in a 91-page report. "So do those who cannot protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy or control their fertility because of lack of access to contraception." The data were included in a report that attempts to highlight the unequal health treatment a female faces from childbirth through infancy and adolescence into maturity and old age. WHO chief Dr. Margaret Chan noted that women enjoy a biological advantage because they tend to live six to eight years longer than men. But in many parts of the world they suffer serious disadvantages because of poverty, poorer access to health care and cultural norms that put a priority on the well-being of men, she said. Chan called it a "preventable tragedy" that nearly 15 percent of deaths in adult women occur in maternity, according to the statistics from 2004. She said the discrimination extends throughout a women's life, from girlhood diseases that aren't identified because they are not sicknesses affecting boys, to clinical trials and medicines developed on the basis of curing adult males. "We will not see a significant improvement in the health of women until they are no longer recognized as second-class citizens in many parts of the world," Chan told journalists in Geneva.

November 9, 2009

Women with dense breasts who had [breast cancer](#) are at a higher risk of having a recurrence after lumpectomy than other women, according to a new study. The results may mean that breast cancer patients with dense breasts may benefit from additional therapies such as radiation, according to a news release on the work. Earlier studies found that women with dense breast tissue are also at increased risk of having breast cancer. Researchers from the Women's College Research Institute reviewed the records of 335 women who had a lumpectomy and made three groups based on breast tissue density. Those with the highest density had a 21 percent chance of recurrence over 10 years. Women in the lowest category had a 5 percent chance. "The composition of the breast tissue surrounding the breast cancer is important in predicting whether or not a breast cancer will return after [surgery](#)," said Dr. Steven A. Narod. The work appears in the Dec. 15, 2009, issue of Cancer

November 10, 2009

A Hawaii woman was kicked off a United Airlines plane bound for Honolulu Monday when the flight crew accused her of having swine flu. Mitra Mostoufi and daughter Pagie told [Honolulu news station KITV](#) the ordeal started aboard their plane in Tampa, Fla. Their plane was about to depart when Mitra -- who said she had an upset stomach -- returned from the airplane restroom. She said the flight crew was more than terse. "'Get your stuff and let's go. Get your belongings.' And I said, 'Why?' 'Because you're sick.' Right in front of everybody. And I said, 'I'm not sick and I'm not going to argue with anybody at that point,'" said Mostoufi. Mostoufi said she and her daughter left the plane embarrassed and humiliated. Mitra Mostoufi said asked another [employee](#) for further explanation and learned the crew believed she had the swine flu. "'The crew does not feel good about you flying because you might be sick.' I didn't know they were all physicians," said Mitra Mostoufi. She said she had had flu shot and no one ever took her temperature. The pair missed United's only flight of the day from Tampa to Hawaii. Her husband said he learned of their plight a short time later. "I couldn't believe it, first time I heard that from her," said Bob Mostoufi. "I think this is discrimination for anybody who's sick." But the Mostoufis said they agree in this age of the swine flu there must be a balance in protecting public [health](#) and respecting individual rights. "I appreciate their concern for other customers and guests. I don't have any problem with that. The only problem I have is the way they handled the situation," Mitra Mostoufi said. "We are human beings. Maybe I sneeze. It doesn't mean I have the flu. You cannot assume that and get me out of the airplane." United Airlines' policy allows the crew to determine if someone who appears visibly ill should be allowed to fly.

November 10, 2009

About a million Maclaren strollers are being recalled after hinge mechanisms caused 12 child fingertip amputations and lacerations. All single-and double-umbrella strollers are affected, including the Volo,

Triumph, Quest Sport, Quest Mod, Techno XT, TechnoXLR, Twin Triumph, Twin Techno and Easy Traveller models, according to the [Consumer Products Safety Commission](#). The recalled strollers were sold for between \$100 and \$360 at Babies "R" Us and Target [Stores](#) (Stock Quote: [TGT](#)) as well as other stores selling children's products nationwide from 1999 through November 2009. Consumers are urged to stop using the strollers immediately and contact Maclaren USA [online](#) or by calling (877) 688-2326 to receive a free repair kit.

November 10, 2009

South Carolina lottery players will soon get to take a chance on two more multimillion-dollar jackpots a week. South Carolina Education Lottery spokeswoman Stephanie Hemminghaus said that the [commission](#) voted on Tuesday to enter the Mega Millions multi-state drawing. The new game could start as soon as January 31. Lottery officials said that the new game gives South Carolina players a chance at two large sweepstakes with games on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. South Carolina already sells Powerball tickets, which has drawings on Wednesday and Saturday. Mega Millions holds the record for the largest U.S. lottery jackpot -- \$390 million on March 6, 2007. The largest Powerball jackpot was \$365 million on Feb. 18, 2006.

November 11, 2009

There were many relieved parents on Tuesday as hundreds of children lined up at Armstrong [Elementary School](#) to get their kids vaccinated against H1N1. The Department of Health and Environmental Control said that the H1N1 vaccine is the best way to protect children and parents from the virus. They brought 2,500 doses with them during Tuesday's clinic. Greenville County [students](#), 3-K to fifth grade, received the shot on Tuesday. Health officials said that 28 days from now they will need to get a booster shot. The question though is will there be enough vaccine to follow up with those shots. "It's very tough for us to speculate on that because we expected to have more vaccine," said Adam Myrick, of DHEC. "We got a third of what the CDC told us we would have." The vaccine is making its way to the population but not as fast as expected, Myrick said. For those people who do get the shot, Myrick said, there might be a slight redness and soreness at the injection site. To view a list of other H1N1 vaccine clinics being run by DHEC, [click here](#).

November 17, 2009

Pharmaceutical maker Novartis AG said Tuesday a U.S. clinical [study](#) suggests that half a dose of its swine flu vaccine may be sufficient to protect people from the virus and could allow many more to be immunized with current supplies. Clinical trials of around 4,000 individuals have shown that half the current dose of its U.S.-approved vaccine Fluvirin gives immunity to adults, the Swiss drug maker said in a statement. The company's swine flu vaccine for the U.S. contains no adjuvant, a chemical compound that hasn't been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration but which often is used in vaccines sold in other countries to boost the immune system and stretch the vaccine's active ingredient. Novartis is discussing the findings with the Food and Drug Administration, which is assessing whether the amount of vaccine per dose can be reduced in the United States. In Europe, Novartis has been using an adjuvant for flu vaccines since 1997. A separate study of more than 33,000 participants showed that the adjuvant is well tolerated, the company said. A single shot containing the adjuvant and half the amount of vaccine used in Fluvirin is enough to protect [children](#) between 3 and 8 and adults, according to the study. Novartis said using the adjuvant in the U.S. could allow the immunization of four times more people with current vaccine supplies.

November 23, 2009

South Carolina is reporting fewer H1N1 cases, but more deaths from the disease. The Department of Health and Environmental Controls told The State newspaper, of Columbia, that 56 cases of JH1N1 flu were reported in the state's hospitals the week ending Nov. 14, down from 78 hospital cases the week before. DHEC said that the H1N1 virus contributed to six deaths in South Carolina the week of Nov. 14, matching the deadliest week since the flu variety was first reported in the state seven months ago. Health experts said it is still impossible to determine if the spread of H1N1 flu, also known as swine flu, has peaked in South Carolina.

November 24, 2009

More South Carolinians will drive over the [Thanksgiving holiday](#) than fly, despite higher fuel prices, AAA Carolinas said on Monday. The automotive association said that it predicts that 569,000 people will travel more than 50 miles from home. That number is up about 17,000 from 2008. AAA Carolinas said that 36,000 will travel by air this holiday, which is a decline of 2,500 passengers from last year. They said this is the third straight year that such a decrease has been noted. The agency said that new fees for baggage and other previously free services, plus peak fare surcharges for [Thanksgiving](#), are to blame for the decline. The agency said that about 479,000 in South Carolina will hit the roads for their Thanksgiving travel, which is up by 15,500 motorists from 2008. The increase in highway traffic comes despite an increase in the national average gas price by 63 cents over last year. AAA Carolinas said that the most expensive gasoline in the state on Monday was in Myrtle Beach at \$2.51 per gallon. The cheapest was found in Spartanburg at \$2.43 per gallon. The South Carolina Highway Patrol said that more troopers will be on the roads because of the projected increase in holiday travel. Troopers said that there were 14 motorists killed in collisions over the Thanksgiving holiday last year. The travel agency reminds motorists traveling to eastern Tennessee that they have a significant detour around I-40, where a rockslide near the North Carolina-Tennessee state line shut down several miles of the road.

AAA Carolinas said that 983,000 North Carolinians will be on the roads over the holiday, while 77,000 residents will fly.

November 24, 2009

The head of the Consumer Product Safety Commission promised swift action to get dangerous products off the market, after acknowledging Tuesday that it didn't move quickly enough on a record recall of more than 2 million cribs linked to four deaths. "We were not advancing this case as quickly as possible," Chairman Inez Tenenbaum said in an interview with The Associated Press. "So, I put all of the resources for the agency on this project so that they could accomplish this goal of recalling the crib." At issue are some 2.1 million drop-side cribs made by Stork Craft Manufacturing of Canada. Four infants suffocated in the cribs. CPSC said the recall involves 1.2 million cribs in the United States and almost 1 million in Canada, where Stork Craft is based. Sales of the cribs being recalled date back to 1993 and nearly 150,000 of the cribs carry the Fisher-Price logo. Drop-side cribs have one side that moves up and down to allow parents, especially shorter adults, to lift [children](#) from the cribs more easily. There have been 110 incidents of the drop-side detaching from the Stork Craft cribs, according to the agency. In the case of Stork Craft and other drop-side cribs, the hardware used to put the crib together can break, deform or become missing after years. There also can be problems with assembly mistakes by the crib owner. Parents often take the crib apart after one [child](#) has grown out of it, and then reassemble the crib later for another baby -- and that can lead to parts that aren't assembled properly. The hardware and misassembly problems can cause the drop-side to detach, creating a dangerous V-like space between the drop-side and the crib mattress, where a child can become trapped and suffocate. Consumer advocates have complained for years about drop-side cribs. More than 5 million of them have been recalled over the past two years alone -- recalls that were associated with the deaths of a dozen young children. CPSC is considering mandatory standards for crib design. Given the history of troubles with drop-sides, Tenenbaum said there is a compelling reason to ban the cribs altogether. If she had a baby, she said she would not put the infant in a drop-side crib. She advised parents with drop-sides in their homes to check the hardware; make sure it's not cracked or missing. For people with Stork Craft drop-sides, they can request a free repair kit that converts the drop-side into a fixed or immovable side. The Stork Craft cribs were manufactured and distributed between January 1993 and October 2009. They were sold at major retailers including BJ's Wholesale Club, Sears and Wal-Mart stores and online through Target and Costco. They sold for between \$100 and \$400, and were made in Canada, China and Indonesia. This is the second big recall this year for the company. It recalled about 500,000 cribs in January because of problems with the metal brackets that support the mattress. Some of the same models in the earlier recall were also part of the new recall, CPSC said. Calls to Stork Craft were not returned Tuesday. ASTM International, an organization that sets voluntary industry safety standards for everything from toys to the steel used in commercial buildings, approved a new standard last week that requires four immovable, or fixed, sides for full-size cribs -- a big step toward eliminating the manufacture of new drop-side cribs since the industry group won't certify them. Toys "R" Us started phasing out drop-side cribs earlier this year and will no longer carry them next month. Consumers can contact Stork Craft, 877-274-0277, to order the free repair kit, or log on to www.storkcraft.com.

November 24, 2009

Several people near Boston who [thought they were getting an H1N1 vaccine got a shot for another strain of flu](#), WCVB-TV reported. The station said 15 Needham firefighters and several Needham residents were caught in the medical mix-up. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now warning health departments about the possible vaccination label confusion.

The label of the seasonal flu vaccination had H1N1 on the label as one of the strains targeted -- but not the current pandemic H1N1 strain. Paul Buckley, the Needham Fire Department chief, was among those who went Monday to get the actual H1N1 vaccine. Buckley had been notified by the department that the vaccination he originally got, along with a number of his colleagues, was the seasonal flu vaccination by mistake. In all, 47 people were affected. The mistake left people confused and concerned. "Hopefully, we haven't had any issues in the past week where some of the people came in contact with the H1N1 virus or possibly got sick from it believing they were vaccinated when they actually weren't," Buckley said. The town's health department has been calling everyone to tell them about the mistake. Officials said it was harmless and amounted to getting a booster for the seasonal flu. Dr. Janice Berns said it is the first mistake like this that she has seen in her 40-year career in public health. "I think the label doesn't appear to be clear," she said. Health departments are now being alerted to the possibility of making this mistake.

November 29, 2009

Big businesses are spending serious time and money trying to limit the swine flu pandemic's impact on operations, from bankrolling video on good hygiene to training employees to cover for co-workers with critical jobs. Companies from health insurer UnitedHealth Group Inc. to beverage can maker Ball Corp. are arranging for employees with flu symptoms or sick family members to work from home where possible, holding fewer in-person meetings, even discouraging handshakes. And hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes and tissues are at the ready everywhere as employers make keeping workers healthy their first line of defense. Employers are playing Dr. Mom, [teaching](#) about hygiene, distributing information about the pandemic, telling folks to stay home if they get sick -- generally with pay -- and scrapping the required doctor's note. Some companies have even distributed "wellness kits" with thermometers and face masks. Whether those efforts and other measures will protect businesses will depend largely on whether the swine flu mutates into a more-dangerous virus. "Large and mid-sized organizations are not going to go bankrupt. Small organizations, that could be different," says Jim MacMicking of business continuity consultants SunGard Availability Services. His company has seen a surge of customers seeking guidance on preparing for swine flu and either beefing up their telecommunications capacity or, if they can't afford it because of the weak economy, reallocating laptops and other equipment to key personnel. Dozens of companies interviewed by The Associated Press report little effect -- so far. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pandemic planners also have seen no big disruptions. But a large Harvard School of Public Health [study](#) found two-thirds of businesses could not maintain normal operations if half their workers were out for just two weeks. And the CDC estimates every person who comes to work with swine flu will infect 10 percent of co-workers. So companies are heeding advice from health and business groups on how to avoid a catastrophe. Many have provided seasonal flu vaccines free to employees or even employees' families and stepped up cleaning schedules. Data storage company EMC Corp. now has doorknobs and handrails in every office scrubbed daily. Ford Motor Co. disinfects the work areas of anyone who's had the virus. Just about every company has done staff presentations on swine flu or set up an information site on its intranet. Health insurer Aetna Inc. posted a video internally and on YouTube in which cute little kids explain how not to get the flu: <http://tinyurl.com/yjzsjzl>. Besides promoting healthy behavior and arranging to temporarily get by without some workers, many employers are making backup plans for distributing their products and asking key suppliers what they've done to ensure they can keep delivering during a pandemic. "That is really one of the major concerns," particularly for manufacturers that keep tiny inventories of raw materials on hand, says MacMicking. If the pandemic worsens, companies will step up efforts. Credit card lender Discover Financial Services and other companies with multiple locations plan to shift workloads around if one location is swamped by sickness. Cable TV operator Comcast Corp. has backup cable technicians set to take over appointments of sick ones. Utility companies, retailers, restaurants, construction firms and many other businesses likewise can't simply have workers phone it in. Smaller firms, with few resources and small talent pools, also are in a tight spot. They can't do much cross-training, so they are mainly promoting health. VitalSmarts, a Provo, Utah, consulting firm that trains workers in interpersonal skills, held a class on how to clean under rings and fingernails. The company also gave out free seasonal flu shots not just to the company's 85 employees, but to their family members as well, and isn't counting days spent home with the flu toward annual limits. American Electric Power, one of the largest U.S. power generators, plans to sequester its most critical employees for a while if needed -- housing, feeding and otherwise caring for them. The Columbus, Ohio, company has run drills to ensure it can keep the lights on if one-third or more of the work force is out sick, and stocked a 90-day supply of surgical masks, disinfectants and respirators for 20,000 employees and 5,000 contractors, says Ted Kwiatkowski, manager of business recovery services. "We are not planning for what it is today. We are planning for what it could eventually be," he says. Telling people to stay home if sick is fine for those guaranteed a paycheck, but a tough sell for the 50 million U.S. workers who have no paid sick leave. "I think what you'll see there is people will want to come to work even if they're sick," says Ann Beauchesne, head of emergency preparedness at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which represents small businesses.

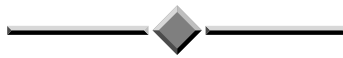
November 30, 2009

Stressed-out workers are calling in sick more often and turning to employee assistance programs for help in greater numbers in the wake of layoffs at many firms, according to a new survey. Benefits consultant Watson Wyatt Worldwide Inc. said nearly half of the 282 large companies that responded to a recent e-mail survey say they have seen more use of employee assistance programs, which typically offer counseling or [stress management](#) help. Twenty-two percent say they have seen an increase in unplanned absences. Watson Wyatt conducted the survey in June and July with the National Business Group on Health, an association of large employers. They targeted firms with at least 1,000 employees. The results are typical for a recession or tough economy, said Shelly Wolff of Watson Wyatt. "There's a couple things that are classic when you have business downturns," she said. "You see sick leave use go up. We also are seeing an uptick in health care costs." Wolff said sick day increases are often tied to job stress, which can trigger health problems. Companies that cut jobs frequently heap more work on remaining workers. "When you're doing twice as much work, you reach a point where you just need to take a step away," she said. The survey said 78 percent of employers cited "excessive work hours" as a leading cause of worker stress. Health care costs often rise because workers feel compelled to use benefits while they still have them. That might lead to workers going ahead with medical procedures they have been putting off. "People just want to make sure they are taking care of themselves and their family members," Wolff said. The survey focused on companies with as many as 25,000 employees, but some findings apply to smaller businesses too. Many clients of the consulting firm FlashPoint have started offering workplace financial [education](#) programs because their employees have become more worried about finances and job security, said FlashPoint president Krista Skidmore. The Indianapolis-based company works with small and medium-sized companies and was not involved with the Watson Wyatt survey. Skidmore said their clients are offering presentations on budgeting and saving to help reduce employee stress levels. "I think they hope by providing these things, they'll see increased productivity," she said.

December 1, 2009

South Carolina [health](#) officials are offering free or low-cost HIV tests in honor of World AIDS Day. State Department of Health and Environmental Control officials said that county health departments and community centers will offer the rapid HIV tests on Tuesday. The acting director of the agency's STD/HIV division, Dr. Wayne Duffus, said that there are 14,000 people in South Carolina known to be living with HIV or AIDS. He said that estimates show that one new HIV infection occurs every nine hours in the state. Duffus said that most people have no symptoms in the early stages, and early diagnosis is key to [staying healthy](#) longer and preventing infecting others. Many community groups across the state are planning events and candlelight vigils to raise awareness.

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Saturdays	8:00pm	COPS
Saturdays (airs weekly)	8:30pm	COPS

Monday – Friday	1:00pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:30pm	COPS

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9:00pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
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Description: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	2:30am	MISSING
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Description: Missing is a weekly half-hour reality series featuring actual cases of missing individuals, both adult and juvenile, from across the United States. (30:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

October 15, 2009

Some people have said that gangs are taking over the streets of Anderson County. Now, the Anderson County Gang Task Force and community leaders are asking parents and educators to pull together to help make the streets safe. The task force held a forum to talk about the problems going on in some neighborhoods. People who live in those neighborhoods said they've been the victims of drive-by shootings and seen a sharp increase in robberies. Residents said that drugs and guns have made their way into the hands of children. "All the shooting and stuff that's been happening over the past month, I can't even tell you how many houses have been shot up," said Apostle Sandra Hatton, a resident of Anderson County. "There's been nothing in the paper, nothing in the news. It's like nothing is happening. I shouldn't have to feel unsafe in my house because of any gang or any situation." "We know that these things are happening and we know that these people are out there and it's just a matter of waiting to see when it's going to happen," said Gracie Floyd, an Anderson County Councilwoman. "So we are trying to get everyone prepared. We are trying to find these young people and show them that there are other things they can do." Officials said that parents should keep an eye out for their children wearing gang colors like red and blue. They said parents should also watch for gang symbols on their children's notebooks, like stars and pitchforks. The most important thing officials said that

parents can do is to keep tabs on their children. They said parents should know where their children are and who they hang out with.

October 17, 2009

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office said it is seeking the help of the public in locating two people and their 10-month-old daughter. The baby, Arizona Hollenbeck, was placed in the custody of the Henderson County Department of Social Services as the result of a hearing that took place on Jan. 20, FOX Carolina News reported. On May 7, DSS placed the child back in the home with her parents, 37-year-old Henry Wayne Hollenbeck and 32-year-old Cathy Regina Hollenbeck, on a trial basis. Officials said since then, the parents have failed to comply with the standards set forth in the plan established by DSS. The Hollenbeck's, who are required to be available at all times to their case worker, and to notify DSS of their whereabouts at all times; have not been in contact with DSS since Oct. 10, officials said. Investigators from the sheriff's office said they discovered that the Hollenbeck's were evicted from their last listed residence on Warrens Way in Alpine Woods. Authorities said it appears the family has fled the area and made every effort to conceal their whereabouts. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of both adult Hollenbeck's for felony child abduction for unlawfully abducting Arizona Hollenbeck who is in DSS custody. Authorities said the Hollenbeck's have been charged with child neglect in the past. Any one having information concerning the location of the Hollenbeck's is asked to call the Henderson County Sheriff's Office at 828-694-2786.

October 19, 2009

Deputies said they identified a woman's body on Tuesday that was found along the Blue Ridge Parkway early Monday morning. Lt. Ross Dillingham of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office said that 21-year-old Misty Carter, of Mountain Home, was found dead near the 395 mile marker at about 6:30 a.m. by a passing motorist. Dillingham said that Carter's family notified deputies of her disappearance on Monday night after seeing news reports about the discovery of a body. Carter's death is being considered suspicious, Dillingham said. Investigators are still awaiting results of an autopsy being conducted at the state medical examiner's office. Anyone with information about Carter's death was asked to call Buncombe County Crime Stoppers at 828-255-5050

October 19, 2009

Pickens police said that child pornography was found at a man's home after officers were called there because of a fight on Oct. 8. Police said they received a call about a fight at 233 Ginko Ridge. They said that when they arrived they found that 49-year-old Michael Miller had assaulted his mother and girlfriend. Investigators said that while they were at the home they also found illegal drugs and child pornography. They said a search of the home revealed several boxes containing photos and videos of child pornography. Police said that officers seized the boxes and a computer at the home. They said the computer was sent to State Law Enforcement Division for further analysis. Miller was charged with assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor, first-degree sexual exploitation of a minor, criminal domestic violence, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Miller's bond was set \$36,905.

October 22, 2009

Greenville County deputies said that two people were shot during three robberies that they believe are connected. The first robbery happened at 9:55 p.m. Thursday at the Li'l Cricket gas station on White Horse Road in Berea. The second robbery happened at about 1 a.m. Friday at a laundromat on Hunt's Bridge Road. Deputies said that two people were shot during that robbery. They said the victims were able to drive themselves to an ambulance station on West Parker Road. The pair were expected to recover. The third robbery happened at the Palms gas station on Easley Bridge Road at about 2:45 a.m. Friday. Deputies said that one of the robbers was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and the other was wearing camouflage. They said that the bandits disguised themselves during the robberies. Anyone with information on any of the robberies was asked to call Greenville County Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

November 6, 2009

Dr. Thomas Roberts' license was suspended Monday by the state Board of Medical Examiners after he had been under investigation for the last year. Documents from the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation outline several instances of alleged misconduct. The documents accused Roberts of engaging in sexual misconduct with staff members and patients. They

also said that he would often leave nurses to complete procedures while he left the office. They said that at one point he left a patient under anesthesia for eight hours before performing surgery. Some of the findings in the reports date back to about 15 years ago. Now, those documents were made public as one condition of Roberts' suspension. In order to keep his license, Roberts will have to meet several other conditions. He must pay for the investigation and prosecution of his case and a \$25,000 fine; enter a monitoring program for his practice; and enroll in an ethics course. In a statement released to FOX Carolina, Roberts said, "I truly regret the grief this has caused to those close to me and greatly appreciate the tremendous support provided to me from my wife, family, staff, colleagues, patients and friends." Roberts also underwent behavioral evaluations after he was diagnosed with a narcissistic personality and excessive daytime sleepiness, among other things. A person who worked with Roberts called the allegations absurd. A representative for Roberts' office said he will likely be back in practice next week.

November 6, 2009

A Fountain Inn couple is accused of cooking methamphetamine around their children. Randall and Tracy King were charged with manufacturing methamphetamine, possession of drugs and improperly disposing of chemicals on Thursday. Deputies said that they received a tip about the drug activity at the couple's home on Meadowland Drive. They said that they found materials inside the home consistent with making the drug. They said the same type of materials were also found in a building outside the home. The Kings' children were placed in the custody of the Department of Social Services. Investigators said that the couple could also be charged with child endangerment.

November 16, 2009

John Ludwig, the man accused of killing another man in a crash in April, pleaded guilty to reckless homicide Monday in court. The judge sentenced Ludwig to five years in prison, which is suspended to three years of probation. Ludwig must also serve 500 hours of community service. The state had recommended a 10-year sentence. The defense called several character witnesses, including Ludwig's high school football coach, the Lincoln County, Ga. sheriff and Ludwig's pastor. Troopers have said that Ludwig was driving more than 85 mph and lost control of his Maserati on April 25. The car sped across a field before plowing into the back of the home of 62-year-old Frederic "Bill" Bardsley. Bardsley was killed. His wife, who was upstairs, was unhurt. Ludwig suffered minor injuries. Ludwig told troopers that he had swerved to miss a deer when the crash happened, investigators said. Ludwig was charged with murder in connection with the crash. He was released from jail on bond and ordered to remain under house arrest and wear an ankle monitor. He was allowed to remove the ankle monitor in September. The murder charge was dismissed. On May 4, Ludwig stepped down as CEO of SDI Networks, a business in Greenville County.

November 17, 2009

Reactions came swiftly after John Ludwig pleaded guilty to reckless homicide Monday. Critics said the sentence was too light but Ludwig's defenders described him as a generous man of good character. Ludwig is accused of losing control of his Maserati at 85 mph April 25 and plowing into the home of Frederic Bardsley, 62, killing him. A murder charge was dismissed as Ludwig pleaded guilty to the lesser charge. He was sentenced to five years in prison. "He's killed a person, and this is the penalty?" Bardsley's neighbor Harriet Crymes said. "This is not a penalty. This was basically a slap on the wrist. It's very disappointing." Neighbors still vividly recall the image of the pricey sports car on Bardsley's front lawn. "Anytime you have money for a good defense, you got a better chance of getting off with a lighter sentence than a person who's got nothing," Bardsley's neighbor Leo Mataranglo said. Bitterness lingers over Ludwig's 26 traffic violations after the 27th cost Bardsley his life. "He was killed in his home, a place that you would never expect something like this to happen," Crymes said. "He was sitting on his couch. What can be safer than your own home, and somebody with this horrible driving record just ended his life. It's awful!" Ludwig's lawyer said the act was not intentional. There were no drugs or alcohol involved and it all comes down to a bad decision, the lawyer said. The case was about a man who showed poor judgment in accelerating down the road and passing a car in a no-passing zone, which had "tragic consequences," Ludwig's lawyer Billy Wilkens said. Others said Ludwig has helped others. "He did a lot for the boys' home, a lot that never was written in a check and never shown," said Glynda Caddell. Caddell is the former director of the Boys Home of the South. At one point, Ludwig raised \$200,000 for the organization. She was one of a number of people from local charities who spoke on Ludwig's behalf in court. "I will tell you that he cared about the individual boys and not just sending in a check, and that's what impressed me," Caddell said. Ludwig's lawyer said it impressed the judge, too. "He's done many, many good things to help needy children, to help people who have

disabilities in the community, and the judge was very impressed with all of these good works that he'd done voluntarily," Wilkens said. "It showed the character of the man."

November 20, 2009

The Greenville County Coroner's Office said the body of a missing Williamston girl was found in the southern part of the county on Friday night. Scott Ramsey, of the coroner's office, said that the body was found at about 6 p.m. outside an abandoned house near the intersection of Long Cane Road and Highway 418, just east of Ware Place. Ramsey said that the body was positively identified as 17-year-old A'Sha Rucker. Williamston police have been looking for Rucker since Wednesday, when she did not show up at Palmetto High School. Greenville County sheriff's Deputy Matthew Armstrong said initial reports from investigators indicated that there were no outright visible signs of trauma on Rucker's body. The Greenville County Sheriff's Office said it considers the death to be suspicious in nature due to the location of the body as it relates to her last known whereabouts. The Greenville County Coroner's office conducted an autopsy Saturday that was ruled incomplete. They are now awaiting toxicology test results. Authorities said their investigation is ongoing and details will be provided as they become available. Anyone with information pertaining to the case is asked to call the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, or Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

November 20, 2009

There are dirty water bowls, dog leashes tied to trees and dozens of kennels at a home in Liberty where deputies said they seized more than 100 animals. "I'd hear dogs barking," said Ross Hoffman, who lives across the street. "It's ridiculous." Investigators said that on Wednesday they took 177 dogs, a cat and a bird from the home on Bagwell Road. They said they also found several dead dogs on the property. Faith Patterson, the woman who lives at the home prides herself as an animal lover, according to her MySpace and [Twitter](#) pages. One quote on the page says that she wants to rescue as many dogs as possible from "death row." Neighbors said that sometimes the dogs would get loose and end up wandering the neighborhood. "It just seemed to me that she should've put them in a shelter," Hoffman said. In fact, that is where many of those dogs were taken by deputies. There they were examined by a veterinarian, who said that some of them are malnourished. Deputies said that Patterson is the estranged wife of a Department of Public Safety employee, who was placed on administrative leave as part of the case. On Friday night, Patterson, 36, along with her husband, Wade, 40, were each charged with 92 counts of ill treatment of animals.

December 4, 2009

South Carolina authorities arrested a man who they believe robbed at least seven banks in North and South Carolina. State Law Enforcement Division Chief Reggie Lloyd said Thursday that agents arrested 50-year-old Jonathan Lee Thompson on Tuesday night in a hotel in Myrtle Beach. Lloyd said that Thompson's spree began at a BB&T bank in Wilmington, N.C., on Sept. 23. Authorities also suspect him in two other robberies in Wilmington and three in Upstate South Carolina. Thompson is accused of robbing a BB&T bank in Spartanburg on Oct. 9, a Carolina First bank in Greenville on Oct. 13 and a Wachovia bank in Spartanburg on Oct. 19. The most recent robbery in which Thompson is a suspect was on Nov. 13 in Florence. Thompson faces four bank robbery charges in South Carolina and three in North Carolina. Lloyd said that Thompson previously served time for a bank robbery in North Carolina.

Attachments



Education

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED

FOURTH QUARTER 2009

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

DATE

TIME

PROGRAM

October 13, 2009

It's an experiment that has made back-to-school a little easier on the back: Amazon.com gave more than 200 college students its Kindle e-reading device this fall, loaded with digital versions of their textbooks. But some students are finding they miss the decidedly low-tech conveniences of paper -- highlighting, flagging pages with sticky notes and scribbling in the margins. "I like the aspect of writing something down on paper and having it be so easy and just kind of writing whatever comes to my mind," says Claire Becerra, a freshman at Arizona State University. Becerra tried typing notes on the Kindle's small keyboard, but when she went back to reread them she found they were laden with typos and didn't make sense. After a month, she says she takes far fewer notes and relies on the Kindle's highlighter tool instead. Amazon wants to adapt the Kindle to academia, where it could reduce the notoriously high cost of textbooks. The Kindle DX, with a larger screen than the regular model, costs \$489, but digital books can cost less than half what physical ones do. While it might be the future of textbooks, Amazon or any other e-reader company has a long way to go to make it happen -- even for a technology-saturated generation that should be more receptive to the shift. When The Associated Press hit five of the test campuses to ask students how they felt about the Kindle, the responses were lukewarm. Most said they liked the prospect of having anytime access to a semester's worth of reading on the Kindle, which can wirelessly download books or get material by being plugged into a PC. But several disliked taking notes on a keyboard with Tic-Tac-sized keys that sits under a 9.7-inch screen. Students can also highlight text or bookmark pages -- the digital equivalent of dog-earing -- then look at those excerpts and links on separate screens. Madeline Kraizel, a freshman at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, has amassed three Kindle pages of bookmarks for her chemistry textbook. That's getting unwieldy, and she isn't sure whether there's a better way to organize them. Another drawback: The Kindle doesn't show page numbers. Because text can be made bigger or smaller, a turn of the virtual page doesn't necessarily correspond to the printed book. Instead, Kindle uses "location" markers. That threw Kraizel and one of her classmates, Hun Jae Lee. Lee, 19, says professors had to give Kindle-equipped students a few words to search for. Eventually, they started referring to both Kindle locations and textbook page numbers. Other students struggled when professors had them read documents in PDF format, which doesn't show up well on the Kindle. Users can't zoom in or make notes on them, and diagrams sometimes get separated from notes explaining them. John Sherman, a first-year MBA student at the University of Virginia, says he can read some case studies on the Kindle but still needs to print others. "For the cases that require a lot of calculations, I find paper cases to be better," says Sherman, 31. "For me, it helps to scribble my thoughts in the margins." Todd Schiller, 22, a student in the University of Washington's [doctorate](#) program in computer science, says he prefers the visual cues of a paper textbook to the "tunnel vision" that today's e-reading promotes. Opening two big textbook pages puts the section he's reading into context: Seeing how many pages remain in a chapter or the book helps him understand how far along he is in the author's plot or argument. Students at seven schools are responding to surveys throughout this academic year and get to keep their Kindles. Amazon.com Inc. hasn't speculated on what improvements or new products might result and declined comment for this story. The dozen or so students interviewed by the AP had compliments for the Kindle, too. Most like how light the device is -- just over a pound -- and many would be willing to overlook technical hassles if it meant not having to carry any books. Most still had to buy and carry textbooks for non-Kindle classes this fall. Students were also impressed with the "electronic ink" screen, which Amazon touts as far easier on the eyes than reading off a computer monitor. But it can't be backlit, disappointing one student who wants to read during dark early-morning bus commutes. Kraizel, the Case Western freshman, says always having the Kindle with her has improved her study habits. It's much easier to cram in a few minutes of studying between classes, she says, and she's noticed that when she sits down for a serious study session she's more familiar with the material. The Kindle can also do things books can't, like read homework aloud. Una Hopkins, a 46-year-old student in the nurse-practitioner program at Pace University in New York, got five chapters finished that way when she was stuck in traffic. "It was robotic, but it got me where I needed to go," Hopkins says. The device's usefulness goes beyond textbooks: Another Washington grad student in computer science, Franziska Roesner, has used the Web browser to read and write e-mail when she's away from her computer. It's slow, but it worked, she says. And sometimes its uses go beyond productivity entirely. Students at Arizona State have found the Minesweeper video game that comes with the device. They've also figured out how to download music. Roesner, who was steeped in Kindle hype as an intern at Amazon over the past two summers, lamented the device's problems with PDFs, which make up the bulk of this quarter's assignments. Still, she won't write off e-readers. "If reading devices like this really come to replace reading paper," she wrote in an e-mail, "I think in 20 years we'll look back at the Kindle with nostalgic affection and amusement, like we now look back at 1990s computers."

October 20, 2009

School lunches need more fruits, veggies and whole grains and a limit on calories, said a report urging an update of the nation's 14-year-old standards for cafeteria fare. But the changes won't come cheaply. Schools can't put just anything on a kid's lunch tray. They must follow federal standards, because the government's school lunch program subsidizes lunch and breakfast for needy kids in nearly every public school and many private ones. Yet those standards are lacking, according to an Institute of Medicine report released Tuesday. They don't restrict the number of calories kids are offered, even though childhood obesity keeps climbing. And they don't match up with the government's own dietary guidelines, which serve as the basis for the familiar Food Pyramid and were updated in 2005. They call for lots of fresh fruit and veggies and more whole grains. "Today, overweight children outnumber undernourished children, and childhood obesity is often referred to as an epidemic in both the medical and community settings," Virginia Stallings, who chaired the report committee, wrote. The proposed standards won't be cheap. The committee said breakfast prices could soar 20 percent, and lunch prices could rise by 4 percent. That's daunting for school kitchens, which get less from the government, \$2.68, than it actually costs to make each free lunch, about \$2.92, according to a recent survey done by the School Nutrition Association. Combine that with rising food and [fuel](#) prices, and school kitchens are feeling the squeeze. Many have been raising prices for full-price meals. The federal dollars "simply do not keep pace with rising costs on everything from food and labor to napkins and spoons," Dora Rivas, president of the association and head of food and nutrition in Dallas public schools, said in a statement last week. The group is pressuring Congress to boost spending on school lunches. The Institute of Medicine committee agreed, saying the reimbursement should be raised to cover the cost of adding more fruits and veggies to the menu and substituting healthier whole grains for refined grains. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the Obama administration would review the report as it writes new rules for school meals. The report proposed new standards according to grade levels -- kindergarten through five, six through eight and nine through 12. Among the recommendations: • Each week, kids should be offered 2 1/2 to 5 servings of fruit for lunch, depending on their grade, and at least five servings of fruit for breakfast. No more than half the fruit servings should be juice. • Kids should be offered 1 1/4 to 2 1/2 servings of vegetables for lunch, according to the report, which says that a half-cup of dark green and bright orange veggies and legumes like beans should be offered at lunch. • And kids should be offered nine to 13 servings of grain for lunch and seven to 10 servings of grain for breakfast, the report said. At least half of those servings should be whole whole grains such as whole wheat bread, oatmeal and brown rice. That is what they should be offered -- under the proposed standards, a kid would be allowed to turn down some items in the cafeteria line as long as they still took a certain number of fruits, juices or veggies to their seats. The current standards only set minimum calorie levels, but the report says there should be a ceiling on calories, too. Lunch should be no more than 650 to 850 calories, and breakfast should be no more than 500 to 600 calories, depending on grade, the report said. The Institute of Medicine is part of the National Academies, an independent organization chartered by Congress to advise the government on scientific matters.

October 20, 2009

With the economy struggling, parents and students dared to hope this year might offer a break from rising college costs. Instead, they got another sharp increase. Average tuition at four-year public colleges in the U.S. climbed 6.5 percent, or \$429, to \$7,020 this fall as schools apologetically passed on much of their own [financial](#) problems, according to an annual report from the College Board, released Tuesday. At private colleges, tuition rose 4.4 percent, or \$1,096, to \$26,273. "Every sector of the American economy is under stress and higher education is no exception," said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education. "It's regrettable, and it's yet another piece of disappointing economic news that affects families." The price increases came despite painful cost-cutting by colleges on everything from faculty to cafeterias and sports travel. And as usual, the rise in tuition outstripped the overall inflation rate. In fact, during the period covered by the report, consumer prices declined 2.1 percent. So the latest tuition increase at public colleges was closer to 9 percent in real terms. "It's only natural for parents to question why colleges are raising their prices yet again, while the rest of our economy is inflation-free," said James Boyle, president of the group College Parents of America. The news isn't all bad. The estimated net price -- what the average student actually pays after financial aid is taken into account -- is still much lower than the list price, at about \$1,620 at public four-year colleges, and under \$12,000 at private ones. Both figures are up slightly from last year but still lower than five years ago. Community colleges, home to about 40 percent of college students, raised prices, too, but tuition is still essentially free to many, after financial aid is factored in. A companion report also out Tuesday shows financial aid from Uncle Sam is surging and reliance on often-expensive private loans has plummeted. And while students in states such as California, Florida and New York have seen double-digit tuition increases, some other states have held the line. Maryland and Missouri froze tuition. Still, this year's increases were bad news for the estimated one-third of students who do not receive grant aid and must pay full price. At Washington State University Vancouver, where students are facing consecutive 14 percent tuition increases, senior Peter Sterr said students are discovering that scholarships that once covered most or all of their bills don't go

as far this year. A political science major, Sterr wants to work in the public sector, but with \$35,000 in loans, he isn't sure he will be able to afford to take such a job. "Any liberal arts degree -- political science, history, English, teaching -- you're heading into an already depressed job market at base salaries that just don't pay enough," he said. The College Board reports come as many colleges face their most challenging economic climate in generations. State appropriations to public colleges declined nearly \$4 billion in 2008-09 from the previous year, even as enrollment grew. Private colleges were forced to offer more financial aid even as their endowments fell by record amounts in the [stock market](#) meltdown and philanthropy dried up. Worst hit is California, whose giant public university and community college systems educate about one in eight full-time college students in the U.S. Facing unprecedented state funding cuts, public colleges there have boosted fees, raised class sizes and furloughed faculty, but still can't balance their books. The University of California system is considering fee increases of more than 30 percent by next year. In releasing its annual report, the not-for-profit College Board, which promotes college access and owns the SAT, tries to strike a balance. It tries to sound the alarm about rising prices without scaring students into thinking college is out of reach. The group noted that financial aid makes tuition free for the typical low-income student at public colleges (though room and board expenses may remain). And it pointed out the huge variations in what colleges charge -- a quarter of four-year college students attend schools charging under \$6,000, while about 9 percent attend schools charging more than \$30,000. The reports also offer a glimpse of what has become a significant expansion of the federal government's role in helping students pay for college. In 2008-09, 65 percent of the \$180 billion spent on student aid came via the federal government in the form of grants, loans and work-study programs, up from 58 percent the year before. Overall, the report estimated, federal grant aid rose almost 11 percent last year. That trend will probably continue because the maximum Pell Grant -- the government's main college aid program for low-income students -- rose by more than \$600 this year to \$5,350. Meanwhile, students also borrowed more to pay for college -- but much more from the government and much less from other lenders such as banks. After years of expansion, private borrowing collapsed from around \$24 billion in 2007-08 to less than \$12 billion last year, the aid report estimated. College Board economist Sandy Baum called the shift to government borrowing good news, because federal loans generally have lower interest rates and more consumer protections. On average, about two-thirds of bachelor's degree recipients borrow money, and their median debt is about \$20,000 by graduation.

October 22, 2009

A bus driver's close attention to a conversation on the bus and her quick thinking, alerted school officials to a potential threat Thursday. Two female eighth-grade students and one male eighth-grade student have been suspended pending recommendations for expulsion after a gun was found in a student's possession at Hughes Middle School, according to Greenville County School District officials. A bus driver on her morning route said she overheard a suspicious comment from a female student and called ahead to notify the school that a gun could possibly be in a book bag of a student on her bus. According to a release from the Greenville County School District, the assistant principal and school resource officer met the student upon the bus' arrival and conducted a search of the student's bag finding a handgun and bullets. The district, working with law enforcement was able to determine the gun had been exchanged earlier in the week with two other students, officials said. Two of the students, a 15-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl, are in the custody of Department of Juvenile Justice. Oby Lyles, a spokesperson for Greenville County School District, said that the bus driver, and the administration and school resource officer acted decisively and in accord with district policy in handling the situation. Lyles said parents were notified through school messenger, a phone service which calls parents to alert them of problems at the school, and told them about the incident and to call the school, if they had further questions.

November 11, 2009

Administrators have nixed a North Carolina middle school's cash-for-grades fundraiser. The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Wednesday that Wayne County school administrators have halted the plan at Rosewood Middle School in Goldsboro. The school was offering 20 test points to students in exchange for a \$20 donation. Rosewood principal Susie Shepherd had said that she approved the idea after a parent advisory council presented it as a way to raise money. Shepherd rejected the suggestion that extra points on two tests could make a difference in a final grade. School district administrators said no extra credit will be awarded and that any donated money will be returned.

November 17, 2009

South Carolina education officials are recognizing 19 groups and people who volunteer in public schools. Among them are Greenville County's Mark Allen, Stephanie Trotter Walker and Pat Wolff. The State Board of Education will honor the volunteers Tuesday at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia. Legislators created the annual Volunteer Awards in 1984 as a way to salute the time, energy and talents volunteers contribute to South Carolina's schools. The winners are chosen from candidates nominated by school districts. The 2009 winners include 14 people, two businesses, a church, a parent-teacher association, and

a school improvement council. They represent 12 of the state's 85 districts. Berkeley County had the most winners with five. The state's largest district, Greenville County, had three winners, and Charleston County had two.

November 17, 2009

Tristesse Jones will probably never drive a tractor or guide a combine through rows of soybeans at harvest time. There isn't a farm within miles of where she grew up on Chicago's west side, but she's set to graduate with a bachelor's degree in crop sciences from the University of Illinois' agriculture school next spring. "People ask me what is my major, and they say 'What is that? So you want to grow plants?'" Jones said. She is one of a growing number of students being drawn to ag schools around the country not by ties to a farm but by science, the job prospects for those who are good at it and, for some, an interest in the environment. Enrollment in bachelor's degree programs in agriculture across the country grew by 21.8 percent from 2005 to 2008, from about 58,300 students to nearly 71,000, according to surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And the numbers are likely higher -- not all schools respond to the surveys. National enrollment figures for 2009 aren't yet available, but numbers from major schools make clear the trend continues: The University of California-Davis has more than 5,490 students enrolled in agricultural majors -- a jump of 210 from a year earlier. Purdue University has 2,575 ag students this fall, up 40 from last year. Yet the number of farms nationwide has dropped for decades. There were about 2.4 million farms in the United States in 1978, and 2.2 million last year, according to the USDA. Many students are choosing to major in agriculture, educators from across the country say, after finding out that much of what they'll learn is science -- biology, chemistry and a long list of more specialized areas that can land them jobs at companies that produce the seeds and chemicals for farmers or in still-forming industries like biofuels. Almost a quarter of the incoming freshmen at the University of Wisconsin each year say they want to do "something in biology," said Bob Ray, associate dean for undergraduate programs and services. Agriculture schools are doing their best to reach out to such students. Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has several full-time recruiters on the road talking to high school students. It also uses its Web site, YouTube and social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to reach prospective students. A lot of the messages boil down to job prospects. "Every one of our poultry science graduates, they average about five job offers per graduate," college spokesman Bill Gibbs said. Demand for science graduates, agriculture industry officials say, outstrips supply. Monsanto, the St. Louis agribusiness giant that makes seeds, pesticides and an array of other farm products, can't hire enough. "We find it really hard to find people in science, in particular, because they tend to get snatched up by medical and health care-related things," said Monsanto spokesman Darren Wallis, adding that it has openings for 100 researchers in St. Louis. UC-Davis' College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is one of the country's biggest ag schools and still has plenty of students studying in traditional areas, said Diane Ullman, the college's associate dean for undergraduate [academic programs](#). But more than 3,200 of UC-Davis' ag students -- almost 60 percent -- are studying so-called human sciences, such as nutrition, or environmental sciences, such as [environmental policy](#) and landscape architecture. "I think that young people are recognizing all of the issues that surround our society that have to do with food, and I think there's a real interest in new ways of doing things and solving some of these problems," Ullman said. Kate Molak is one of the students Ullman is talking about. Molak is from Portola Valley, a suburb of San Jose, and plans to graduate in June with a bachelor's degree in community regional development. She wants to work in public health. "I wouldn't say that agriculture necessarily has anything to do with that, but we do deal with a lot of environmental issues with public health," she said. At Illinois, Jones said she wound up in the ag department after her high school pompon coach -- who happened to be a biology teacher -- steered her toward a summer science program at the university. "I always liked to pick apart worms -- I thought I was a weirdo," Jones said. Now she's applying to graduate programs and hoping she'll eventually be a research professor, maybe working on how to grow a better soybean. "I love doing research," she said. "Just having that hands-on experience, and being able to see the product, even if it takes years to see it."

November 21, 2009

When Liz Fitzgerald realized her son and daughter were forced to read books in math class while the other children caught up, she had them moved into gifted classes at their suburban Atlanta elementary school. Just 100 miles down the road in Taliaferro County, that wouldn't have been an option. All the gifted classes were canceled because of budget cuts. "If they didn't have it, they would get bored and distracted easily," said Fitzgerald, whose children are 14 and 12. "It just wouldn't be challenging." Such disparities exist in every state, according to a new report by the National Association for Gifted Children that blames low federal [funding](#) and a focus on low-performing students. The report, "State of the States in Gifted Education," hits at a basic element of the federal government's focus on education: Most of its money and effort goes into helping low-performing, poor and minority kids achieve basic proficiency. It largely ignores the idea of helping gifted kids reach their highest potential,

leaving those tasks to states and local school districts. "In the age of Sputnik, we put money into math and science, and we ended up on the moon," said Del Siegle, a University of Connecticut researcher who wrote the report. "We really need to consider that again. We cannot afford as a country to ignore talent." The federal government spent just \$7.5 million last year on research and grants for the estimated 3 million gifted children in the U.S. Both the Bush and Obama administrations have tried to eliminate that money entirely, but Congress put it back into the budget each year. Gifted programs are typically paid for by local districts or states and vary dramatically. In some states, it's as stark as one county with multiple gifted programs -- magnet schools, honors courses and separate classrooms for advanced learners -- next to a county with nothing. "The quality of gifted services is dependent on geography, and it shouldn't be," said Laura Carriere, president of the Maryland Coalition for Gifted and Talented Education and the mother of two gifted children. Just six states pick up the whole tab for gifted programs, and 13 don't put a single dollar toward such curriculum, according to the study. That means poor urban and rural school systems are often have no money left for their highest achievers, according to the Nov. 12 report. "There is a markedly insufficient national commitment to gifted and talented children, which, if left unchecked, will ultimately leave our nation ill-prepared to field the next generation of innovators and to compete in the global economy." For Bellevue, Wash., mother Julie Plaut Warwick, a gifted program was the only option for her now 16-year-old son, who is in a magnet high school in the Seattle suburb. "He would be very bored and would have gotten in trouble," she said. "If you're in a regular classroom and you repeat things two or three times, he gets incredibly bored and frustrated." The federal No Child Left Behind Law, which was passed in 2003, forced states to focus on bringing struggling children up to grade level -- inadvertently exaggerating the problem even more, Siegle said. A Fordham Institute study released last month showed gifted students are still improving their standardized test scores, but not as quickly as low-performing children. As the economy has tanked, some states are shifting money away from gifted programs to help balance their budgets. The report shows that 13 states -- more than half of the 23 that actually [fund](#) gifted education -- made such cuts in 2008-09. In the Oxnard School District just north of Los Angeles, that means Martha Flournoy, who ran the district's gifted program for a decade, is back in the classroom. She said the students who are suffering the most are bright children from poor families. "If I'm middle class and my kids are identified gifted and talented, I'm going to find a charter school or go to a neighboring district or find a private school," Flournoy said. "That does not happen with all kids." Some oppose having separate classes for gifted kids. Mara Sapon-Shevin of Syracuse University argues that gifted programs create "haves and the have nots." She prefers grouping students together and then tailoring the curriculum to each child. Sapon-Shevin kept her own daughter out of a second-grade gifted program in the 1980s. "In the unit on birds, the gifted children would learn myths about birds, go bird watching, build bird houses, learn bird calls, do bird identification," she said. "The problem came when I raised my hand and asked what the other second-graders were doing. They said 'work sheets.'" But for educators like Sally Walker, gifted programs help bright children reach their highest potential, putting future doctors, scientists and engineers in classrooms where they don't feel embarrassed for being smart. Walker recalls the day she was testing a particularly bright 5-year-old boy in her gifted program in a Rockford, Ill., elementary school in the 1980s. She asked him what color coal is and gave him three options: black, purple and gray. The boy marked all three answers and told Walker that coal was black indoors, purple in the sunshine and gray if it burns. "These are students who are ignored because of the myth that they will make it on their own or succeed without help," said Walker, now executive director of the Illinois Association for Gifted Children. "They get frustrated because they feel they are not being understood."

November 22, 2009

When Henry Spelman found out he'd won a Rhodes Scholarship, his first call was to his girlfriend. To [share](#) the good news, of course, but also to see whether she was a winner as well. The couple, both seniors at the University of North Carolina, had done their final scholarship interviews apart -- he in Philadelphia, she in Houston. Spelman heard the results first. When he called with his good news, "the stakes just went way up," said his girlfriend, Libby Longino, who had to wait 45 minutes before finding out that she, too, had nabbed one of the world's most prestigious scholarships. Now the pair are on their way to England, joining the 30 other American students announced Sunday as Rhodes Scholars, including two students who teach philosophy and poetry to inmates, three All-Americans in swimming and a U.S. Army second lieutenant mentored by Gen. David Petraeus. One winner, Andrew McCall of St. Louis, is the first Rhodes Scholar from Truman State University in Missouri. The winners were selected from 805 applicants at 326 schools, and join an international group of scholars. Their expenses will be fully covered for up to three years of study at the University of Oxford in England. The scholarships, worth about \$50,000 per year, are awarded for attributes that include high academic achievement, personal integrity, leadership potential and physical vigor. Several honorees, such as recent Bowdoin College graduate and New Canaan, Conn., native William Oppenheim III, say they hope the Rhodes Scholar honors help bring attention to the causes about which they are passionate. Oppenheim founded and runs the Omprakash Foundation, which helps link volunteer teachers with grassroots educational projects worldwide that need their help. Another new Rhodes Scholar, 23-year-old Tyler Spencer of Staunton, Va., started Athletes United for Social Justice to help tackle the AIDS epidemic in Washington, D.C., after learning of a similar program while studying in South Africa. "AIDS in D.C. is just a severe epidemic," he said. "Our athletes have just about as

much to learn from the South Africans as they would from us." Eleanor "Ellie" Ott, 23, a recent University of Pittsburgh graduate from Lawrence, Kan., said her passion for working with refugees will motivate her to earn two master's degrees as a Rhodes Scholar: one in forced migration, and another that will teach her to use rigorous evidence to base social policy on. "I hope to help shape refugee policy in the future, and ideally that would be through using research and evidence," she said. Columbia University senior Raphael Graybill, a native of Great Falls, Mont., plans to study political theory at Oxford. Right now, though, he's juggling life as an auxiliary police officer with the New York Police Department, his political science studies at Columbia and his responsibilities as captain of Columbia's ski and [snowboarding team](#). Graybill had already been approached to run for political office in Montana, but that will have to wait now that he's a Rhodes Scholar. Eventually, a political career is possible. "The best way to live out your values is in public life," he said. For Spelman, of Swarthmore, Pa., and Longino, of Dallas, the scholarships might even help them communicate better. The couple avoided discussing their applications for the nine months they've been dating, a situation Spelman called "really awkward." That changed when Longino called him with her news. "It was probably one of the top five phone calls of my life," she said.

November 23, 2009

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney watched the past six seasons as talented Tiger teams that appeared ready for success stumbled to disappointing finishes. So with a similar scenario unfolding for his 2-3 Tigers last month, Swinney did what he could to stop it cold. Six victories later, the result is No. 15 Clemson's first trip to the Atlantic Coast [Conference championship](#) game and the chance for even bigger things ahead. Swinney gathered his players the Monday after Clemson lost to Maryland 24-21 for an accountability session. He put together a tape of problem areas on offense, defense and special teams for all to see. Then, Swinney told them to keep working as hard as they could and good things would happen. The best thing so far took place Saturday when Clemson clinched the [ACC's](#) Atlantic Division. The Tigers will take on Georgia Tech on Dec. 5 in Tampa, Fla.

November 30, 2009

A plan to allow working professionals to teach in schools part-time has won preliminary approval in South Carolina. The State reported Monday that the teacher adjunct program would allow working professionals to be certified to teach part-time in public schools. The state Board of Education has given the idea preliminary approval. If it approves it again, it would go to lawmakers. Assistant education superintendent Mark Bounds said that officials hope the program will help rural schools attract talent, especially in math and science. He said that officials hope the program would attract people like engineers to teach in addition to their full-time jobs. Professionals with a degree in their subject area who have worked at least five of the past 10 years in the field could qualify as adjunct teachers.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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October 22, 2009

South Carolina residents can tap into about \$4 million in federal rebate cash for energy efficient appliances under a program next spring. The State Energy Office said Thursday that rebates of \$50 to \$500 are available for South Carolinians who replace old appliances with Energy Star certified refrigerators, dishwashers and hot [water heaters](#). The \$4 million in rebates are funded by South Carolina's share of \$300 million in federal stimulus [funds](#) being distributed to each state for appliance rebates. The program is expected to start in March and will continue until all the funds are exhausted. Customers must turn in their old appliances, which participating stores will then recycle.

November 4, 2009

The United States spends more money than any other country, and its elite institutions are the world's best. But overall the system is wasteful, fails too many -- and is falling behind other countries. No, the topic isn't health care - it's higher education. The latest stinging report came last week from a state colleges group arguing the United States isn't producing enough college graduates, especially in science. Similar gloominess emanates from business groups and even the Obama administration, whose top education goals include again leading the world in proportion of college graduates. But is it really fair to try to rank American higher education against the rest of the world? And if you do, is the once-vaunted U.S. system really losing its edge? A few contrarian experts say no. The most vocal is Cliff Adelman, a sharp-tongued data hound who after a long and influential career in government now works at the independent Institute for Higher Education Policy, where he feels freer to rock the boat. "We've got a country full of masochists, people who love to be flagellated, they want to hear a bad story," Adelman said in an interview. "We hesitate to call it propaganda, but it is." For years, Adelman has railed against tables showing other developed countries bounding ahead in college achievement. In a new paper Wednesday, he lays out his case against the most commonly cited international higher education comparisons, which typically cite annual reports from the Organization of Economic and Comparative Development, a consortium of the world's leading industrialized countries. It's not that Adelman and like-minded experts, including Art Hauptman, a prominent independent education consultant, think American higher education is perfect. It's just doing a better job than you might believe from the spin put on the annual OECD benchmarks. Adelman's beef falls into three main categories.

GRADUATION RATES THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM: American higher education is good at getting students into college -- and terrible at getting them out with a degree. A figure commonly cited from the OECD report is that only 56 percent of U.S. college students graduate. **ADELMAN:** That number is deeply misleading: It measures how many American college students have a degree within six years only if they graduate from the same school where they started. It doesn't capture students who transfer, which is much more common at American colleges than elsewhere. How many U.S. students graduate somewhere within six years? An earlier government study estimated 63 percent -- not great, but about in line with the highest-ranked developed countries. However, that study is buried in an index to the OECD report. In the most commonly cited OECD figures, only the United States is graded on the number who graduate where they started. Other countries are measured systemwide. "They like to beat up the big guy," Adelman said of the OECD numbers. "It's a rhetorical race to the bottom."

THE VERDICT: Adelman's right -- the comparison is unfair to the United States. Still, 63 percent leaves much room for improvement.

A WELL-EDUCATED POPULATION? CONVENTIONAL WISDOM: The influential Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation laments the United States' fall from first to 10th in college completion rates. The White House says President Obama "is committed to ensuring that America will regain its lost ground and have the highest proportion of students graduating from college in the world by 2020." Several reports have warned U.S. higher education attainment is on track to peak with the baby boomers. **ADELMAN:** The United States does very well producing bachelor's degrees. In that category, he notes in the published 2008 OECD report the United States

had the highest rate in every age group except 25-34, where it was No. 2. The U.S. isn't as successful producing associate's, or two-year degrees, and that drags down the overall degree completion rate. In the 25-34 age group the United States falls to No. 10, nine spots below South Korea, as the Gates Foundation and others note. But is it fair to compare U.S. associate's degrees with their counterparts elsewhere? In other countries, specialized institutions focus on 2-year degrees. In the United States, most are awarded by community colleges, whose many jobs include preparing students to transfer to bachelor's programs. Students who transfer often don't even bother to collect an associate's degree they've earned. **THE VERDICT:** In fact, the United States isn't doing quite so well with bachelor's degrees. The OECD now acknowledges the 2008 figures Adelman cites ranking the United States No. 2 were faulty. In the latest figures -- now available from 2009 -- the United States is still first or second in every older age group. But in the 25-34 age group, it falls to No. 6 in the world, suggesting we haven't done as well lately. That is a problem, but it doesn't necessarily mean college attainment will peak with the baby boomers. Only 31 percent of young American adults have a 4-year degree, but Hauptman notes it's much easier for older American adults to eventually finish a degree. The baby boomers picked up more degrees over time, and by the time current young adults are 55, they'll likely be back at or near the top. Adelman also offers an important reminder that quantity isn't everything. Any country could ramp up its number of degrees. Germany has relatively few bachelor's degrees but a very successful economy. **THE VALUE OF COMPARISONS. CONVENTIONAL WISDOM:** Comparing the United States to other countries reveals our weaknesses and suggests practices elsewhere we could imitate. **ADELMAN:** The data are so flawed -- definitions of everything from "student" to "bachelor's degree" vary so widely -- that comparisons only confuse and [fuel](#) political agendas. And U.S. demographics are so different that problems here will require unique solutions. Diverse, growing countries like the United States shouldn't imitate shrinking, homogenous ones like Finland or South Korea. **THE VERDICT:** A number of experts agree with Adelman that rankings are overrated, and often abused for political reasons. "The policymakers often highlight the negatives, because you need a crisis in order to galvanize political action," said Russ Whitehurst, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Still, he says, even flawed comparisons can highlight important issues. And Whitehurst says they do show something true and important -- that the United States is struggling to move students through the system on a mass scale. "You can't just sit around and wait for the perfect measurement to come along, particularly if you know almost by definition there will never be one," said Kevin Carey, a policy expert at the independent Education Trust, who [shares](#) Adelman's concerns about the OECD's shortcomings but isn't quite prepared to toss aside the whole enterprise of comparing countries. "People pick and choose statistics based on the case they're making," Carey said. "Welcome to the world."

November 9, 2009

Forecasters said that the remnants of now Tropical Storm Ida will bring heavy rain to the western Carolinas on Tuesday. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for all of Upstate South Carolina; Stephens, Franklin, Hart and Elbert counties in Georgia; and Macon, southern Jackson, Transylvania, Henderson and Polk counties in North Carolina. The watch is in effect from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning. FOX Carolina meteorologist Andy Wood said that Ida will make landfall on Tuesday morning along the Gulf Coast as a tropical storm. He said that as Ida moves inland, rainfall will spread across the western Carolinas. Wood said that rainfall amounts from 2-4 inches will be common, with the heaviest rain falling in the watch area. Forecasters said that residents in the watch area should monitor water levels closely and be prepared to evacuate to higher ground. They said that drivers who come across water-covered roadways should turn around and find another way to get to their destination. Wood said that the rain should move out of the area by Wednesday morning.

November 10, 2009

Forecasters said that the remnants of Tropical Depression Ida will bring heavy rain to the western Carolinas on Tuesday. The [National Weather Service](#) issued a flash flood watch for all of Upstate South Carolina, except Cherokee County; Stephens, Franklin, Hart and Elbert counties in Georgia; and Macon, southern Jackson, Transylvania, Henderson and Polk counties in North Carolina. The watch is in effect from Tuesday morning to

Wednesday morning. FOX Carolina meteorologist Andy Wood said that Ida made landfall on Tuesday morning along the Alabama coast as a tropical storm. He said that as Ida moves inland, rainfall will spread across the western Carolinas. Wood said that rainfall amounts from 2-4 inches will be common, with the heaviest rain falling along the escarpment of the [Appalachian Mountains](#). Forecasters said that residents in the watch area should monitor water levels closely and be prepared to evacuate to higher ground. They said that drivers who come across water-covered roadways should turn around and find another way to get to their destination. Wood said that the rain should move out of the area by Wednesday morning.

November 11, 2009

Many locations in the western Carolinas have picked up more than 4 inches of rain in the past two days, FOX Carolina chief meteorologist Kendra Kent said Wednesday. Kent said that Greenville received 4.13 inches of rain since Monday. She said that a viewer in Six Mile reported 5.15 inches at his home since Monday. Kent said that the rains from the remnants of [Tropical Storm](#) Ida that made landfall on Tuesday morning put Greenville ahead for November rainfall. Winds behind the rain will be strong through Thursday, Kent said. A wind advisory was issued for much of the area through Thursday for winds speeds up to 30 mph. Kent said that the high winds combined with the soggy soil could lead to felled trees and, in turn, power outages. As of 4:10 p.m. the Web site for Duke Energy reported that 1,686 customers were without [electricity](#) in Greenville County. The site also reported that 671 customers were without power in Anderson County, and 313 households were in the dark in Spartanburg County. Kent said that the sunshine will return to the western Carolinas by Friday.

December 3, 2009

It seemed like the rain would never stop on Wednesday. The steady, cold rain would trickle for a bit and then the sky would open up again to heavy downpours. At times the showers would cover [car](#) windshields, which made it difficult to drive. "These are not perfect conditions by any stretch of the imagination," said Lance Corporal Bill Rhyne of the South Carolina Highway Patrol. "We want you to slow down. We want you to get to your destination." As the clouds moved out and the sun went down, what was left behind still caused a big mess -- flooding. "It is a little bit frustrating having to deal with this," said Elizabeth Angel, as she stopped at a road block. A creek overflowed its [banks](#) and drifted onto the East Suber Road bridge in Greer on Wednesday night. South Carolina Department of Transportation workers were forced to close shut down the bridge. "That way people wouldn't drive through them and nobody would get hurt and have a wreck," said Barry Freeman, a SCDOT maintenance worker. Meteorologists said that many locations in the Upstate picked up more than three inches of rain by Wednesday night.

December 3, 2009

Neighbors said that some streets in Anderson turned into waterways within minutes on Wednesday night. "The last time it was this bad was Hurricane Hugo," said one person who lives near the flooded streets. By the time the rain ended, Booker Street was sitting under 4 feet of water. Rescue crews were called in to help with a voluntary evacuation. One family took the offer to get to safety. "The family kept talking to them and convinced them to leave because there wouldn't be anybody here to help them later on if the power went out," said one of the rescue workers. "They are calling for more rain, so we came on out," said one person in the family. "Normally, my parents don't leave, but they are sick and disabled so we brought them on out." The family wasn't the only rescue made. Crews tread through the flood waters to help three pit bulls that were left chained up. They said the pets were just seconds away from drowning. "We were trying to get the pit bulls, but the water was too deep for us to walk back there," said Angel Chatman, a neighbor. "That's why I'm soaked and wet." Something people in this area said they are used to this, since flooding is something they have to look out for every time it rains. "There is a creek that runs on the backside of these houses and of course this is a low area," said another rescue worker. "All the water from the north end of town runs this direction and it starts backing up and this is where it ends up." No one was seriously injured during the flooding. The three dogs also made it out alive.

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:


Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

October 20, 2009


Republican Rep. Greg Delleney said he plans to introduce a resolution to impeach Gov. Mark Sanford during an upcoming special session. The special session, scheduled for Oct. 27, is to allow legislators to make sure the state's unemployed qualify for an extra seven weeks of emergency checks. Delleney, who represents Chester and York counties, said the resolution will "get the ball rolling" on the impeachment process so that it be taken through committees before the legislative session begins in January. The representative said that the resolution will include three accusations against Sanford. The first is for dereliction of duty, Delleney said. He said that accusation stems from Sanford leaving the state for five days in June while he visited his mistress in Argentina. He said that Sanford left no one clearly in charge during his absence. The second accusation is that Sanford attempted to cover up the scandal, Delleney said. He said that Sanford told his staff that he was hiking on the Appalachian Trail and then his staff disseminated that information to the public.

The third part of the resolution claims that Sanford has brought disgrace and shame upon the office of the governor and the state of South Carolina, Delleney said. Delleney said that there are two things that can warrant impeachment, according to the South Carolina Constitution. The first is a criminal act and the second is serious misconduct in office. He said that Sanford's actions qualify as misconduct. "The question is, does character matter?" Delleney said. "If character matters, then Gov. Sanford needs to go." Delleney said that after he introduces the resolution, it will go through a committee process before being brought to the [House](#) for a vote. He said if the resolution passes the House it then moves to the Senate for a vote. The representative said that he has significant support behind the resolution and that his constituency is behind him as well. Ben Fox, a spokesman for Sanford, said that the governor's office has no response to Delleney's planned resolution.

October 21, 2009

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford named the new Union County Clerk of Court on Wednesday after the previous clerk resigned earlier this month. Sanford said that Freddie Gault will take over the position after Brad Morris, the previous clerk, resigned on Oct. 9 amid a State Law Enforcement Division investigation into [financial](#) accounts managed by his office. In his resignation letter addressed to Sanford, Morris wrote he is "seeking forgiveness from God" for his shortcomings. Gault currently works with the Union Public Safety Department and has run for sheriff in the past. Sanford said he liked Gault for the job because of his administrative abilities, his [law enforcement](#)  background and the fact that he has never been involved with that office in the past. "A new broom sweeps clean," Sanford said. The governor also said that Gault came highly recommended by people in the community. Union County has been rocked by scandal recently, as a corruption investigation led to the indictment of several county officials, including the county supervisor, former sheriff and former tax assessor. Sanford has suspended the county supervisor. He said he will name the interim replacement for that position next.

October 29, 2009

Relief is on the way for thousands of unemployed [South Carolina](#)  residents. Gov. Mark Sanford signed into law a measure on Thursday that extends jobless benefits to workers who had begun running out of weekly state and federal help. Sanford's office said the measure ensures at least seven weeks of federal extended jobless benefits for South Carolina workers who already had begun losing weekly checks. The Legislature made a needed change this week to ensure the benefits keep coming during a special session that started on Tuesday. State Rep. Kenny Bingham, of Cayce, said that workers who have missed checks will get them retroactively.

November 2, 2009

Many Carolinians will head to the polls on Tuesday to decide everything from council seats to mayoral races. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in [South Carolina](#). In North Carolina, the polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. A representative of the South Carolina Election [Commission](#) said that most voters will cast their ballot at their normal polling place. He said that the law does allow for municipalities to consolidate polling places, but voters who have questions should contact their county election commission. Nearly every county in the Upstate and mountains has an election going on. Here's a list of the big races for each county. In South Carolina: **Abbeville County** Due West - Mayor, Town Council, Special Town Council Election **Anderson County** Easley - Combined Utilities Commissioner **Greenville County** Fountain Inn - Ward 3 City Council; Greenville - At Large City Council, Public Works Commissioner; Mauldin - Dist. 1 City Council, Dist. 3 City Council, Dist. 5 City Council; Simpsonville - Ward 4 City Council, Ward 6 City Council; Travelers Rest - Mayor, City Council **Greenwood County** - Ninety Six - Public Works Commissioner, Ward 5 Town Council **Oconee County** Salem - Town Council; Walhalla - Mayor, City Council **Pickens County** Central - Mayor, Town Council; Six Mile - Town Council; Pickens - City Council; Liberty - Mayor, Ward 2 City Council; Easley - Combined Utilities Commissioner **Spartanburg County** Landrum - Mayor, Town Council; Paolet - Mayor, Dist. 1 Town Council, Dist. 3 Town Council, Dist. 6 Town Council; Greer - Dist. 2 City Council, Dist. 4 City Council, Dist. 6 City Council, Public Works Commissioner; Spartanburg - Mayor, Dist. 4 City Council, Dist. 5 City Council, Dist. 6 City Council, Public Works Commissioner; Spartanburg County - School Board (All Districts) In North Carolina: **Buncombe County** - Asheville - Mayor, City Council; Biltmore Forest - Mayor, Commissioner; Black Mountain - Mayor, Alderman; Montreat - Mayor, Commissioner; Weaverville - Mayor, Commissioner; Woodfin - Mayor, Alderman; Swannanoa - Incorporation Referendum **Graham County** - Lake Santeelah - Councilman; Robbinsville - Mayor, Alderman; **Haywood County** - Canton - Mayor, Alderman; Clyde - Alderman; Maggie Valley - Alderman; **Henderson County** - Flat Rock - Dist. 1 Village Council, Dist. 2 Village Council, Dist. 3 Village Council; Fletcher - Mayor, Dist. 1 Town Council, Dist. 4 Town Council; Hendersonville - Mayor; Laurel Park - Town Council; Mills River - Dist. 1 Town Council, Dist. 3 Town Council; **Jackson County** - Dillsboro - Mayor, Town Council; Forest Hills - Mayor, Village Council; Sylva - Mayor, Town Council; Webster - Mayor, Town Council; **Macon County** Franklin - Mayor, Alderman; Highlands - Mayor, Commissioner **Madison County** - Hot Springs - Mayor, Alderman; Mars Hill - Mayor, Alderman; Marshall - Mayor, Alderman **McDowell County** - Marion - Mayor, City Council; Old Fort - Mayor, Alderman **Mitchell County** - Baskerville - Mayor, Town Council; Spruce Pine - Mayor, Town Council **Polk County** - Columbus - Mayor, Town Council; Saluda - Mayor, Commissioner; Tryon - Mayor, Town Council **Rutherford County** - Bostic - Mayor, Commissioner; Chimney Rock - Councilman; Ellenboro - Alderman; Forest City - Mayor, Commissioner; Lake Lure - Mayor, Commissioner; Ruth - Mayor, Commissioner; Rutherfordton - Mayor, Councilman; Spindale - Mayor, Commissioner; **Swain County** - Bryson City - Alderman; **Transylvania County** - Brevard - Mayor, City Council; Rosman - Alderman; **Yancey County** - Burnsville - Mayor, Town Council.

November 4, 2009

Environmental issues are taking center stage in the race to run South Carolina. Five Democrats and five Republicans who want to be governor started their Tuesday night debate in Orangeburg by discussing the environment. Republican state Sen. Larry Grooms, of Charleston, disputed the human connection to global warming, citing debunked claims the climate is cooling. Other candidates said they think the state needs to look at nuclear or alternative energy sources to address problems. Democrat Jim Rex joked that the issue could be solved in part by putting a wind turbine in front of the debate stage. The South Carolina ETV Big Picture Election Special was taped and then broadcast at 8 p.m.

November 4, 2009

Spartanburg City Councilman Junie White was elected as the Sparkle City's next mayor during Tuesday's election. The councilman picked up 3,299 votes, while rival Mike Fowler picked up 426 votes. White was elected to City Council in November 2005. Current Spartanburg Mayor William Barnet III announced over the summer that he would not be running for reelection. Barnet has served as mayor since 2002.

November 16, 2009



Half of the Southern Democrats responding to a new poll said they were either opposed or outraged by a South Carolina congressman's outburst as President Barack Obama addressed a joint session of Congress. The State of Columbia reported that the Winthrop University poll also showed large majorities of both independents and Democrats reacted negatively to Republican [Rep. Joe Wilson's](#) interruption of Obama's speech by shouting "You lie!" Winthrop's poll, which included questions asked exclusively for The State, showed almost 68 percent of independents said they were opposed to Wilson's outburst. Overall, 30 percent of independents said they were opposed to and outraged by Wilson's actions.

The survey was conducted Oct. 24-Nov. 7 by telephone. There were 866 respondents, with a [margin](#) of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

November 17, 2009

The South Carolina House will formally receive an impeachment resolution on Gov. Mark Sanford. It's the first bill that will be pre-filed Tuesday as the House opens the door to new legislation ahead of its January session beginning. State Rep. Greg Delleney of Chester left the bill on the House desk last month when the House met in a brief, two-day session to deal with unemployment benefits and perks aimed at bringing Boeing Co. jobs to South Carolina. Delleney said the bill will be the first one in the stack of legislation and it already has three co-sponsors and others may sign on after Tuesday. Delleney said Sanford should be impeached because he abandoned the state to rendezvous with an Argentine lover and embarrassed South Carolina.

December 1, 2009

People who own reptiles or use cell phones in [North Carolina](#)  face new restrictions starting Tuesday. More than 50 new laws approved this year are enforceable starting Dec. 1. Among those new laws is a ban on [texting while driving](#) . Drivers who violate the new rule could face up to \$230 in fines and court costs. Adult drivers can still send and receive phone calls. Another change expands rules for people who own venomous snakes to include large pythons and crocodiles that aren't native to North Carolina. They must keep or transport these reptiles in secure pens that have locks. A reptile owner could face a high-grade misdemeanor if a reptile isn't handled properly and a stranger or friend dies or suffers a life-threatening injury.

December 1, 2009

President Barack Obama is sending 30,000 extra U.S. troops to Afghanistan on an accelerated timetable that will have the first Marines there as early as Christmas and all forces in place by summer. But he'll also declare Tuesday night that troops will start leaving in 19 months. In a prime-time speech to the nation from West Point that ends a 92-day review, Obama will seek to sell his much bigger, costlier war plan to a skeptical public in part by twinning it with some specifics about an exit strategy, said two senior administration officials. He will tell the American people that U.S. troops will start leaving Afghanistan "well before" the end of his first term, with the aim of ending the main U.S. military mission there, one official said. However, Obama will not lay out precisely when he believes the war will end, the official said. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity to not upstage the president's speech. With U.S. casualties in Afghanistan sharply increasing and little sign of progress from the war's beginning in 2001, the war Obama has called one "of necessity," not choice, has grown less popular with the public and within his own Democratic Party. In recent days, leading Democrats have talked of setting tough conditions on deeper U.S. involvement, or even staging outright opposition. Obama is acknowledging the divided public opinion with his emphasis on an exit, as well as on stepped-up training to help Afghan forces take over and a series of specific demands for other governments, including Afghanistan, Pakistan and NATO allies, to contribute more. Unease with Obama's approach to the war is sure to be on display on Capitol Hill when congressional hearings begin this week. With the full complement of new troops expected to be in Afghanistan by next summer, the heightened pace of Obama's military deployment appears to mimic the 2007 troop surge in Iraq, a 20,000-strong force addition under President George W. Bush. Similar in strategy to that mission, Obama's Afghan surge aims to reverse gains by Taliban insurgents and to secure population centers in the volatile south and east parts of the country. In his speech and in meetings overseas in the coming days, Obama also will ask NATO allies to contribute more -- between 5,000 and 10,000 new troops -- to the separate international force in Afghanistan, diplomats said. One official from a European nation said the troop figure was included in an official NATO document compiled on the basis of information received from Washington ahead of Obama's announcement. The NATO force in Afghanistan now stands at around 40,000 troops. Obama also will make tougher demands on the governments of Pakistan and, especially, Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, rampant government corruption and inefficiency have made U.S. success much harder. The Afghan government said Tuesday that President Hamid Karzai and Obama had an hourlong video conference. Obama spoke Tuesday with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari. The 30,000 new U.S. troops will bring the total in Afghanistan to more than 100,000. The president's long-awaited troop increase had been envisioned to take place over a year, or even more, because force deployments in Iraq and elsewhere make it logistically difficult to go faster. But Obama directed his military planners to make the changes necessary to hasten the Afghanistan additions, said one official. Military officials said at least one group of Marines is expected to deploy within two or three weeks, a recognition by the administration that something tangible needs to happen quickly. The new Marines would provide badly needed reinforcements to those fighting

against Taliban gains in the southern Helmand province. They also could lend reassurance to both Afghans and a war-weary U.S. public. Obama's announcement comes near the end of a year in which the war has worsened despite the president's earlier infusion of 21,000 forces. Previewing a narrative the president is likely to stress, press secretary Robert Gibbs told ABC that the number of fresh troops don't tell the whole story. Obama will emphasize that Afghan security forces need more time, more schooling and more U.S. combat backup to be up to the job on their own. In Kabul, Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, the new head of a U.S.-NATO command responsible for training and developing Afghan soldiers and police, said Tuesday the groundwork is being laid to expand the Afghan National Army beyond the current target of 134,000 soldiers and 96,800 police by next October. But, he said, no fixed higher target is set. There is a general goal of eventually fielding 240,000 Afghan soldiers and 160,000 police, but Caldwell said in a telephone interview with the AP that that could change depending on reviews beginning next spring or early next summer. One reason is the expected cost. "If you grow it up to 400,000 -- if you did grow all the way to that number, and if it was required to help bring greater security to this country -- then of course you have to sustain it at that level, too, in terms of the cost of maintaining a force that size," he said. Nearly all the cost of building Afghan forces has been borne by the U.S. and other countries thus far. Obama was spending much of Monday and Tuesday on the phone, outlining his plan -- minus many specifics -- for the leaders of France, Britain, Germany, Russia, China, India, Denmark, Poland and others. He also met in person at the White House with Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. A briefing for dozens of key lawmakers was planned for Tuesday afternoon, just before Obama was set to leave the White House for the speech against a military backdrop.

December 2, 2009

Lawmakers considering the impeachment of South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford have finished their discussion of his use of state-owned aircraft for personal and political purposes. Attorneys Butch Bowers and Kevin Hall said during a three-hour hearing Tuesday that Sanford did nothing wrong on any of the nine flights questioned by the state Ethics [Commission](#). Some of the trips in question include a flight from Spartanburg to Clemson in September 2005, from North Myrtle Beach to Columbia in March 2007 and from Columbia to Greenville in August 2007. An attorney for the Governor's Office said that no matter the findings of the panel, the allegations do not warrant impeachment. "The South Carolina impeachment standard is high and strict," said Ross Garber, attorney for the Governor's Office. "More broadly, no modern governor of any state has been impeached without having first been charged with felonies." Sanford has been under scrutiny since he returned in June from a rendezvous with his Argentine lover and confessed a yearlong affair. House Judiciary Committee members are holding a series of hearings to discuss ethics charges that include travel on state-owned planes. The panel reconvenes Thursday to discuss Sanford's commercial airline travel, reimbursements from campaign [funds](#) and failure to report trips on private planes.

December 3, 2009

Facing the prospect of more American deaths in Afghanistan as the war escalates, lawmakers lashed out at neighboring Pakistan on Thursday as an unreliable ally that could spare the U.S. its bruising fight with al-Qaida if it wanted. "They don't seem to want a strategic relationship," New Jersey Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez said of the government in Islamabad. "They want the money. They want the equipment. But at the end of the day, they don't want a relationship that costs them too much." A crucial ally in fighting the al-Qaida terrorist network, Pakistan is also a major recipient of U.S. aid. President Barack Obama and Congress recently approved a \$7.5 billion aid package for economic and social programs in Pakistan in a bid to strengthen the civilian government there. But many in Congress have grown skeptical that Islamabad is doing all it can to drive out al-Qaida forces hiding along its mountainous Afghan border. Those doubts reached a new pitch this week after Obama's announcement that he will send 30,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan by next fall, with the anticipation that they would start coming home in July 2011. Obama has not said whether or how the troop buildup would accelerate attacks on the terrorist network hiding in Pakistan. The U.S. has previously relied on drone-launched missile strikes, and those operations are classified. "It is not clear how an expanded military effort in Afghanistan addresses the problem of Taliban and al-Qaida safe havens across the border in Pakistan," said Sen. Richard Lugar, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, a leading conservative Democrat, said Obama's strategy was the nation's best shot but that Pakistan could end the war if it wanted. "Conversely, if Pakistan were to return to old habits of supporting the Afghan Taliban, the war may be almost impossible to win," he said. Obama has sought to assure lawmakers -- and the rest of the world -- that he sees Pakistan inextricably linked to Afghanistan. In his speech on Tuesday, the president said both governments were "endangered" because of al-Qaida.

"The stakes are even higher within a nuclear-armed Pakistan, because we know that al-Qaida and other extremists seek nuclear weapons, and we have every reason to believe that they would use them," he said in his speech from West Point. Testifying for the second day on Obama's new war plan, the president's chief military and diplomatic advisers said Pakistan was a critical component of the strategy. "We have a lot of work to do in trying to convince them that we're not trying to take

over their country, that we're not trying to take control of their nuclear weapons, and that we are actually interested in a long-term partnership with them," said Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Several Democrats, including Menendez and Sen. Russ Feingold of Wisconsin, have threatened to withhold their support for more money for the war, although lawmakers said it was unlikely that Congress would try to block the deployments. Instead, members from both parties say they want to find a way to pay for the troop increase that won't add to the deficit. In a press conference Thursday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she did not support a proposal by Wisconsin Democratic Rep. David Obey that would have imposed a war tax on most Americans. Pelosi, D-Calif., said the first step should be an all-hands briefing to Congress by Obama's top advisers. "We have to handle it with care, listen to what they present, and then members will make their decision," she said. The results of the billions in U.S. aid to Pakistan have been mixed. While the army has taken on the Pakistani Taliban, it has failed to go after Afghan Taliban leaders who base their operations in the tribal areas in the border region. At the same time, anti-Western sentiment in Pakistan has grown. Many Western officials and analysts believe Pakistan is playing both sides -- accepting U.S. money to crack down on militants while tolerating the Afghan Taliban in case the radical Islamic movement gains control in Afghanistan once the American troops withdraw.

Officials estimate there are 500 al-Qaida fighters and 50,000 Taliban militants in Afghanistan and Pakistan. For its part, Pakistan has been cautious in its response to Obama's plan. In London on Thursday, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani declined to endorse the U.S.-led troop increase and said his government needs more information. Gates said he initially opposed the idea of a troop increase because he feared it would make the U.S. footprint in Afghanistan too heavy. He said he also was hesitant to set a timeline on when troop withdrawals would begin. But he said he was ultimately convinced by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, that the size of the force was less important than the mission troops would be given. His colleagues also convinced him that setting a date to start withdrawals would help encourage the Afghans to take more responsibility, Gates said. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday will take the administration's case for escalating the war to NATO's top council, where McChrystal will attend a foreign ministers meeting. Clinton said she expects the allies to make new troop contributions in the 5,000 to 7,000 range.

A South Carolina legislative panel considering whether to oust Gov. Mark Sanford will not consider state ethics charges that accuse the two-term Republican of improperly flying in expensive airline seats and reimbursing himself from campaign funds. Members of a House Judiciary Committee panel on Thursday voted to remove 28 of 37 state Ethics Commission charges from its debate over whether the governor should be impeached. Lawmakers are reviewing other civil charges, mostly involving his use of state aircraft. Attorneys for the governor have said that their client did nothing wrong and that the accusations against him do not rise to the level of impeachment. "It is appropriate that the committee dismissed the bulk of the allegations against the governor," said Ross Garber, attorney for the governor's office. "These allegations clearly did not rise to the level of serious crimes and serious misconduct in office required to justify impeachment of a governor for the first time in the history of South Carolina." An ethics hearing is to consider all the charges early next year and could bring thousands of dollars in fines. The Republican has faced scrutiny since he returned in June from a five-day absence and revealed a yearlong affair with a woman in Argentina.

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

DATE

TIME

PROGRAM

October 13, 2009

A popular, high-end restaurant in Spartanburg closed on Monday, according to the Spartanburg Herald Journal. The newspaper reported that the owner of Justin's Steakhouse on Main Street said that the location had seen declining sales and was not breaking even. The manager told the paper that 15 employees were affected by the closure. He said that some of them will be offered jobs at the Pelham Road location in Greenville.


October 21, 2009

South Carolina's jobless rate in September increased slightly as the state's labor force reached its lowest level in a year. The Employment Security [Commission](#) said Wednesday that South Carolina posted an unemployment rate of 11.6 percent in September. That was a slight uptick from the August rate, which the commission revised down to 11.4 percent. Nationally, unemployment is 9.8 percent. The state's work force dropped below 2.2 million people in September. State lawmakers are preparing to return to the Capitol next week for debate that could provide some relief to thousands of out-of-work residents. Officials said that nearly 7,000 South Carolinians failed to get seven weeks of emergency jobless [benefits](#) because legislators had not tied the checks to the state's unemployment rate.



October 21, 2009

Officials said Wednesday that Fujifilm plans to expand its South Carolina operations, creating up to 20 job. State Commerce Department and Greenwood County officials announced that Fujifilm will move its regional distribution center for photo products to its Greenwood manufacturing complex. Company officials expect color photo paper and photo processing materials to start shipping from Greenwood later this year. The transition should be complete by February. Fujifilm said that shipping from Greenwood will reduce warehousing and transportation costs. Fujifilm Manufacturing U.S.A. Inc. opened in Greenwood in 1988. The 500-acre complex includes Fujifilm's largest distribution center, a research laboratory, and five plants that make printing plates, recyclable cameras and color photo paper.

October 21, 2009

Goodyear announced on Wednesday that it plans to shut down its plant in Spartanburg by the end of the year. The plant, which employs about 90 people, produces retread material for [commercial truck](#)  and aircraft tires. "To improve efficiencies and optimize our manufacturing footprint, we will [consolidate](#) Spartanburg's production into other Goodyear U.S. facilities," the company said in a statement. Amy Brei, a spokeswoman for the company, said that a few of the 90 employees could be offered jobs elsewhere in the company. She said the rest will receive a severance package.

October 28, 2009

More than 1,000 people have signed a petition to keep an Anderson-area [post office](#)  open, despite plans by the Postal Service to close it. The post office is located on South Main Street in Anderson. Most people who are upset about the closing live nearby and said they walk to the location to mail letters and buy stamps because driving is not an option for them. "They are saying that it's costing too much money to keep this place open, that they have to pick one to close," said D. Montepera, an organizer of the effort to keep the post office open. "I'm upset because there's too many elderly and handicap down here that have no transportation to get to the post office. Even if they take the bus, it's going to take them over two hours just to check mail or get stamps and it's just not fair." So the group sent a petition to the [Postal Service](#)  and plans to hold a rally to save the office. Residents said they hope that by putting up a fight they will show how important this post office is to the people who live around it. "We are going to hold a rally on Friday and we are going to contact everyone we have to contact, from the top to the bottom, to try to fight," said Montepera. The rally is scheduled to happen this Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the post office. President Barack Obama's economic recovery program saved

November 4, 2009

935 jobs at the Southwest Georgia Community Action Council, an impressive success story for the stimulus plan. Trouble is, only 508 people work there. The Georgia nonprofit's inflated job count is among persisting errors in the government's latest effort to measure the effect of the \$787 billion stimulus plan despite White House promises last week that the new data would undergo an "extensive review" to root out errors discovered in an earlier report. About two-thirds of the 14,506 jobs claimed to be saved under one federal office, the Administration for Children and Families at Health and Human [Services](#), actually weren't saved at all, according to a review of the latest data by The Associated Press. Instead, that figure includes more than 9,300 existing employees in hundreds of local agencies who received pay raises and benefits and whose jobs weren't saved. That type of accounting was found in an earlier AP review of stimulus jobs, which the Obama administration said was misleading because most of the government's job-counting errors were being fixed in the new data. The administration now acknowledges overcounting in the new numbers for the HHS program. Elizabeth Oxhorn, a spokeswoman for the White House recovery office, said the Obama administration was reviewing the Head Start data "to determine how and if it will be counted." But officials defended the practice of counting raises as saved jobs. "If I give you a raise, it is going to save a portion of your job," HHS spokesman Luis Rosero said. The latest stimulus report, released Friday, significantly overstates the number of jobs spared with money from programs serving families and children, mostly the Head Start preschool program. The report shows hundreds of the programs used nearly \$323 million to provide pay raises and other benefits to their existing employees. The raises themselves were appropriate -- the stimulus law set aside money for Head Start salary increases -- but converting that number into jobs proved difficult. The Obama administration told Head Start officials to consider a fraction of each employee as a job saved. "That's more than ridiculous," said Antonia Ferrier, a spokeswoman for Republican House Minority Leader John Boehner. Many Head Start programs around the country went further, counting everyone who received a raise as a job saved. "It's a glitch in the system," said Ben Allen, the research director at the National Head Start Association. "There was some misunderstanding among some in the Head Start community about completing the [reporting](#) requirements." Allen said a cost-of-living adjustment "may not be viewed traditionally as a job saved, but one could interpret it that, by providing COLA, you're retaining staff." The Bergen County Community Action Program in Hackensack, N.J., noted the nearly \$213,000 it received went to cover raises for existing staff only, but it also reported saving 85 jobs. At Southwest Georgia Community Action Council in Moultrie, Ga., director Myrtis Mulkey-Ndawula said she followed the guidelines the Obama administration provided. She said she multiplied the 508 employees by 1.84 -- the percentage pay raise they received -- and came up with 935 jobs saved. "I would say it's confusing at best," she said. "But we followed the instructions we were given." Ed DeSeve, who oversees the stimulus at the White House, said the Head Start numbers "represent a few percent of all jobs reported" and said the problems would probably be balanced out by other errors that underreported jobs. "So we don't expect any corrections to this data to meaningfully impact the total 640,000 direct jobs," DeSeve said. More than 250 other community agencies in the U.S. similarly reported saving jobs when using the money to give pay raises, to pay for training and continuing education, to extend employee work hours or to buy equipment, according to their spending reports. Other agencies didn't count the raises as jobs saved, reporting zero jobs. Last week's stimulus report claimed 640,000 jobs saved or created by the economic recovery plan so far. Those jobs came from 156,614 federal contracts, grants and loans awarded to more than 62,000 recipients, worth a total of \$215 billion. Obama has promised the stimulus would save or create 3.5 million jobs by the end of next year, and the data released Friday represented the first head count toward that goal.

November 11, 2009

A new poll shows Southerners are worried about job loss and the economy and that they do not think the federal government is doing enough to help. The Winthrop Poll released Wednesday found that four in 10 respondents think that the economy is a top concern. Nearly that many said they are worried about losing jobs. Winthrop University political science professor Scott Huffmon said that the worries mean people may spend less, hindering an economic recovery. The poll of 866 people in 11 states found that nearly three-quarters of people wanted new government programs to create jobs and nearly two-thirds thought states in serious [financial](#) trouble should get federal aid. The telephone poll conducted between Oct. 24 and Nov. 7 has a [margin](#) of sampling error of plus or minus 3.3 percent.

November 20, 2009

Boeing is breaking ground in South Carolina on a \$750 million aircraft assembly plant -- the largest industrial [investment](#) in state history. Officials were scheduled to gather on Friday at the site near the Charleston International Airport where Boeing will assemble its 787 jetliners. The company last month chose North Charleston over Everett, Wash., for the assembly plant. That move prompted some jobs at workers in South Carolina from the current Boeing employees in Washington. A cartoonist for an online newspaper there even sketched a scene which depicted South Carolina's future Boeing workers putting together

an airplane with duct tape. The new plant is expected to create 3,800 jobs within seven years and construction will mean another 2,000 jobs. Boeing received an incentive package, including up to \$170 million in low-interest construction [loans](#), plus sales tax exemptions for computers, material and fuel used in test flights.

November 20, 2009

The unemployment rate in South Carolina rose nearly half a percentage point in October, to 12.1 percent. The Employment Security [Commission](#) also said Friday that it had revised September's rate up 0.1 percentage points, to 11.7. The agency says the number of unemployed people in South Carolina went up by nearly 10,000 in October, to about 263,000. The state's overall job count was down 60,500 from a year ago. It's nearly 95,000 below December 2007, when the recession began. Allendale County had the state's highest jobless rate, at 22 percent. Unemployment was lowest in Lexington County, at 8.6 percent. State-by-state unemployment numbers for October were to be released later Friday. South Carolina's September jobless rate was the nation's fifth-highest. [N.C. Unemployment Rate Bumps Up To 11 Percent](#): North Carolina's unemployment rate rose slightly to 11 percent in October, a fraction off its historic peak earlier this year and the ninth straight month in double digits. The state's Employment Security Commission on Friday reported the jobless rate continued to hover around 11 percent, as it has for nearly all of this year. September's rate was 10.8 percent. The state's unemployment rate in October 2008 was 7 percent. North Carolina's unemployment rate has been worse than the national average for more than a year and that continued in October, when the U.S. figure was at 10.2 percent. Construction suffered the greatest losses, shedding about 6,600 North Carolina jobs in October. [Education](#), health services and government jobs saw the greatest employment growth.

November 23, 2009

Home resales far exceeded expectations last month, surging to the highest level in 2½ years as first-time buyers rushed to take advantage of an expiring tax credit. The National Association of Realtors says sales rose 10.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.1 million in October, from a downwardly revised pace of 5.54 million in September. It was the highest sales level since February 2007. Sales, which were nearly 24 percent above last year's level, had been expected to rise to an annual pace of 5.65 million, according to economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters. The median sales price was \$173,100 down 7.1 percent from a year earlier, and off 1.6 percent from September.

December 2, 2009

An economist for the University of South Carolina is forecasting a recovery for the state in 2010. USC economist Doug Woodward said Wednesday he expects personal income will improve by about 3.3 percent in the coming year. Woodward said that recovering lost jobs will take longer. He said that he expects the state's unemployment rate to average about 11.2 percent next year. He said that the figure could be worse for the first part of the year, depending on the spending habits of consumers. Woodward and others are speaking at the University of South Carolina's 29th annual Economic [Outlook](#) Conference. The session includes a panel discussion titled "Outlook for the Economy 2010: Recovery or Relapse." The panel features economists from the [College](#) of Charleston, Coastal Carolina University and Clemson University.

December 4, 2009

A surprising drop in the unemployment rate and far fewer job losses last month cheered investors Friday and raised hopes for a sustained economic recovery. The rate unexpectedly fell to 10 percent, from 10.2 percent in October, as employers cut the fewest number of jobs since the recession began. The government also said 159,000 fewer jobs were lost in September and October than first reported. If part-time workers who want full-time jobs and laid-off workers who have given up looking for jobs are included, the so-called underemployment rate also fell, to 17.2 percent from 17.5 percent in October. The better-than-expected figures provided a rare dose of good news for a labor market that's lost 7.2 million jobs in two years. Still, the respite may be temporary. Job creation is expected to remain far too weak in coming months to absorb the 15.4 million unemployed people who are seeking work -- and the 11.5 million others who are underemployed. As more people begin seeking work, the jobless rate is likely to resume rising. The report offered evidence of how hard it remains to find work: The number of people jobless for at least six months rose last month to 5.9 million. And the average length of unemployment has risen to more than 28 weeks. Even counting last month's decline, the unemployment rate has more than doubled since the recession began in December 2007, when it stood at 4.9 percent. And the underemployment rate has jumped to 17.2 percent from 8.7 percent. "We will need very substantial job growth to get unemployment lower, especially when the labor force ... starts growing again," said Lawrence Mishel, president of the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think tank. Still, economists and investors drew hope from the Labor Department report. It said the economy shed 11,000 jobs last month -- a sharp improvement from October's

revised total of 111,000. And it was much better than the 130,000 Wall Street economists had expected. The average work week also rose to 33.2 hours, from a record low of 33 hours, along with average earnings. Economists expect employers will increase hours for their current workers before hiring new ones. The stock market jumped and Treasuries fell in response to the reports. In midmorning trading, the Dow Jones industrial average surged 110.94, or 1.1 percent. Broader stock averages also rose. "We've still got a long way to go, but the good news in this report provides important positive momentum," said Carl Riccadonna, senior U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank. The increase in hours worked means employees are earning more income, Riccadonna said, which could help boost consumer spending and enable Americans to pay down more debt. Average weekly earnings jumped \$4.08 to \$622.17, the report said. Temporary help services added 52,000 jobs, the fourth straight increase. That's also positive news, because companies are likely to hire temporary workers before adding permanent ones. Total employment usually starts to increase between three and six months after temporary employment, Riccadonna said. The economy has now lost jobs for 23 straight months. But the small decline in November indicates the nation could begin generating jobs soon. Many economists think it will happen in the first quarter of next year. David Rosenberg, chief economist for Canadian wealth management firm Gluskin Sheff, said the 7 point difference between the jobless rate and underemployment rate is almost double the usual gap. That's an indication of how many more people are likely to be looking for work in coming months. Another worrisome sign: The National Federation of Independent Business said Thursday that a monthly survey of its [small business](#) members showed that more companies plan to reduce employment in the next three months than plan to add jobs. And a survey by outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas Thursday found a sharp drop in the number of companies planning to hire workers in November, compared with the previous month. The services sector gained 58,000 jobs last month, while manufacturing and construction shed 68,000 positions. Education and health services added 40,000 jobs, and government employment rose 7,000. The unemployment rate fell because the number of jobless Americans dropped by 325,000 to 15.4 million. The jobless rate is calculated from a survey of households. The number of jobs lost or gained, by contrast, is calculated from a separate survey of [business](#) and government establishments. The two surveys can sometimes vary. The unemployment rate also dropped because fewer people are looking for work. The size of the labor force, which includes the employed and those actively searching for jobs, fell by nearly 100,000, the third straight decline. That indicates more of the unemployed are giving up on looking for work. The participation rate, or the percentage of the population employed or looking for work, fell to 65 percent, the lowest since the recession began. Once laid-off people stop hunting for jobs, they are no longer counted in the unemployment rate. Even as layoffs are easing, the slow pace of hiring is causing headaches for political leaders. The employment report comes a day after President Barack Obama hosted a "jobs summit" at the White House, where he told economists, business executives and union leaders that he is "open to every demonstrably good idea" to create jobs. Christina Romer, the head of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, called the jobs report "unquestionably good news." She cautioned into reading too much into one month's number, noting that the data can be "volatile." "We have seen the economic recovery in the sense of GDP growing again, we have seen stabilization in our financial markets," she said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I think this could be a sign that that is finally getting to the job market." Democrats in Congress are considering legislation that would extend jobless benefits for those who have run out and help the unemployed pay for health care coverage. Those measures could cost up to \$100 billion.

December 15, 2009

North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue announced on Tuesday that a grant allowed an Asheville company to expand, creating 104 jobs. Perdue said that Thermo Fisher Scientific will expand its operations in Buncombe County and [invest](#) nearly \$5 million during the next three years. She said that the expansion was made possible by a \$208,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The Asheville site makes cold [storage](#) equipment, centrifuges and ovens for medical and research laboratories. Perdue said that the wages for the new jobs will vary by job function, but should be near \$41,000, not including benefits. "Our superb quality of life, business-friendly climate and highly skilled workers continue to attract companies that are achieving success in a competitive marketplace," Perdue said. To learn more about the new jobs with Thermo Fisher, visit the company's website at [thermofisher.com](#).

December 16, 2009

Swedish appliance maker Electrolux is moving its North American headquarters from Georgia to North Carolina's largest city, adding hundreds of white-collar jobs in a banking center hit by the [financial](#) crisis. The company and Gov. Beverly Perdue announced Wednesday the move will bring about 740 jobs to Charlotte. In return, the company could receive tax breaks and direct grants worth up to \$26 million. Electrolux is best known for making vacuum cleaners, washers and dryers, and kitchen

appliances for home and commercial uses. Stockholm-based parent company Electrolux AB said in October it increased profits by 93 percent in the third quarter after raising [prices](#) on its products and slashing costs.

December 18, 2009

South Carolina's unemployment rate has hit a new high at 12.3 percent. The November jobless rate released Friday by the state Employment Security Commission sets a record. Officials attribute the rise to continued losses in the hospitality and construction sectors. Officials also adjusted the state's October jobless rate down slightly, to 12 percent. It had been 12.1 percent, a figure that placed the state fifth-highest in the country and matched a state record earlier in the year. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is set to release state-by-state figures later Friday. Earlier this month, economists disagreed over when South Carolina's economy will begin recovering but agreed it will take years for the state to see single-digit unemployment.

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 6:00am		MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)

Sundays 8:30am		MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 9:30 am		TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 10:30am		FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

October 12, 2009

Greenville moved one step closer to putting a permanent curfew in place for teens in the downtown business district on Monday night. Surveillance video taken the weekend before [Labor Day](#) prompted Greenville Police Chief to call for a curfew for teenagers. She said there were so many teens on the streets that officers were out-numbered when scuffles broke out. Wilfong said that there was a similar scene near Falls Park after the Fall For Greenville Festival ended on Saturday night. She said that about 20 fights broke out between Falls Park and The Greenville News building along Main Street. She said that officers had a hard time controlling the situation because of about 2,000 people who were in the area when the scuffles started. The temporary curfew ordinance, which expires at the end of October, states that no one under 18 years old can be in Falls Park after 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The ordinance also closes Greenville's downtown business district at 10 p.m. on those same nights to anyone who is 17 years old or younger who are not accompanied by an adult. While the chief of police pleaded her case for a permanent curfew in Monday night's City Council meeting, she pointed to the crowd control issue Saturday night after Fall for Greenville. Surveillance video taken during the incident showed people running through the streets trying to get to safety. The police department said officers were pulled in from all over the city to help clear the streets. "Numerous fights broke out," Wilfong said. "There were so many they lost count. Officers tried to get to the location. They were trying to get into the area where they could actually see fights at a distance. When you have hundreds of kids running toward you, they had a difficult time getting into the location." Wilfong said it took 50 officers about 20 minutes to clear everyone out of the area. She said that no one was hurt and no arrests were made.

One witness said that as people were pushed onto the sidewalks to clear the street it became a crowd control issue and not so much an issue of teens. "It was just really a collapse of traffic flow," said John Flanagan, a teen who witnessed the mayhem. "Not to slight the police officers, but it seems like they didn't really expect that there would be that many people even after they'd stopped [selling](#) tickets to Fall for Greenville." The city council was divided on whether or not the ordinance should be permanent. "Some people felt like there was more discussion that should have taken place or had concerns about the constitutionality and that sort of thing," said Greenville Mayor Knox White. "I think the majority felt like we got to see for ourselves that it was effective and that it took care of the problem." The City Council approved the first reading of the ordinance 4 to 3. The second and final reading will be at the next council meeting.

October 14, 2009

The 140th South Carolina State Fair is opening a 12-day run in Columbia with loads of exhibits, rides, concerts and, of course, food. Gates open at 3 p.m. Wednesday with \$1 admission. This year's fair runs through Oct. 25 and also features exhibits on [sea lions](#) and science, as well as a motorcycle daredevil show by the Nerveless Nocks. "American Idol" winner David Cook is set to perform Saturday. State [Law Enforcement](#) Division agents are also manning a Booth throughout the fair to answer

questions and offer information about being secure during a disaster. In January, the South Carolina State Fair was among the top 10 festivals or fairs from Texas to Delaware in Southern Living magazine's Readers Choice Awards.



October 20, 2009

Two Republican county officials in South Carolina are apologizing after they disparaged Jews in a newspaper op-ed in support of a fiscally conservative U.S. senator. The county chairmen were supporting Republican Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina. Chairmen Edwin Merwin and Jim Ulmer wrote in their op-ed: "There is a saying that the Jews who are wealthy got that way not by watching dollars, but instead by taking care of the pennies and the dollars taking care of themselves." DeMint called the comment thoughtless and hurtful. One of South Carolina's two Jewish legislators, Democratic Sen. Joel Lourie, said he was outraged by the remark. He called on the chairmen to be removed. State GOP Chairwoman Karen Floyd also called the statement absolutely unacceptable.

November 4, 2009

About 85 World War II veterans are taking a whirlwind trip to Washington to see some war monuments. Honor Flight Upstate is taking the veterans from Greenville to the nation's capital on Wednesday. The group planned to visit the World War II, Vietnam, Korean and Marine Corps war memorials. They are also scheduled to see the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Honor Flight Upstate is a volunteer group that seeks to honor World War II veterans. FOX Carolina's Cody Alcorn is touring with the group and will have a full report on their experience Thursday on The Ten O'clock News.



November 9, 2009

Asheville firefighters said that an apartment building was heavily damaged by an explosion and fire on Monday morning. The explosion happened at 100 Atkinson Street at the Hillcrest Apartments at 11:23 a.m. Firefighters said that a maintenance worker was taken to a local hospital with minor injuries. Kelly Webb, of the Asheville [Fire Department](#) , originally said that investigators thought that a methamphetamine lab may have been the cause of the explosion, but she said there was no evidence found that supports that theory. The American [Red Cross](#)  was assisting families that have been displaced by the fire. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest information.

November 9, 2009

One person was killed and another person was injured during a fire at a [retirement](#) home in Jackson County on Sunday morning. The blaze happened at the Jackson Village at about 2 a.m. Firefighters said that a breezeway connecting the apartments caught fire, destroying four units. Forest Aikens, 76, lived in one of those four units and was killed. Another person was forced to jump from the second story to escape the blaze. That person suffered minor injuries and was taken to the hospital for treatment. The cause of the fire was still under investigation.

November 10, 2009

Over-the-counter painkillers such as ibuprofen or naproxen -- usually sold as Advil and Aleve -- may protect people from [Alzheimer's disease](#) , researchers reported. The finding was based on a study in mice. The drugs, which are known as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, would need to be taken starting at an early age, according to a team at the State University of New Jersey, Piscataway and the Cleveland Clinic. A news release on the work says that the scientists were looking into something called neuronal cell cycle events, which are an early molecular event that leads to [Alzheimer's](#)  disease. The mice were given a molecule that can trigger the neuronal CCEs. When they were treated with NSAIDs, no new CCEs formed, though old ones stayed. The researchers said that the results are supported by other studies that have indicated that people who took painkillers long term were less likely to get Alzheimer's disease, though it did not seem to have an effect on those who already have mild to moderate symptoms. The news release did not address any increased risks that people or mice could face from long-term NSAID use.

November 10, 2009

A federal judge said that South Carolina cannot issue license plates that show the image of a cross in front of a stained glass window along with the phrase "I Believe." U.S. District Judge Cameron Currie said in her ruling Tuesday that the tags violate the separation of church and state. The fight over the "I Believe" plates started shortly after Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer helped push the legislation through in 2008. Groups, including [Americans United for Separation of Church and State](#) and American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, challenged the state's ability to put a religious message on a state license plate. Currie said that the case is a textbook example of the need to observe limits on the government promotion of religion. Later on Tuesday, the Palmetto [Family](#) Council said it was ready to use a state law that lets private groups issue tags on their own. Council President Oran Smith said that Tuesday was the first day of putting in place a different plan to get "I Believe" tags on the road. Bauer said he hopes that Currie's decision is appealed.

November 17, 2009

Four people have died after a car was hit by an Amtrak train near the South Carolina-Georgia state line. Jasper County Coroner Martin Sauls III said Tuesday morning he isn't ready to release the names of the victims. But he said three adults and a 12-year-old child from Hardeeville died. Hardeeville interim city manager Ted Felder said the wreck happened about 9 p.m. Monday at a crossing at the intersection of state Highway 46 and U.S. 17. Felder said the car's driver tried to get around a crossing arm to beat the train. Felder said the train pushed the car about a mile down the tracks before it could stop. None of the approximately 20 passengers or five crew members was hurt. The train was headed from Charleston to Savannah, Ga.


November 23, 2009

The pastor of a North Carolina church has been killed in a wreck in South Carolina that injured seven people. Multiple media outlets reported that the Rev. Ronnie Wilson, of Southpoint Free Will Baptist Church in Belmont, N.C., died in the wreck late Saturday afternoon on state Highway 903 east of Lancaster. Services were canceled at the church on Sunday, but members gathered with deacons at the church to pray. Wilson had led the church since 1999 and helped build a new building in 2005. Wilson was driving a van with four men heading back from an annual golf trip to Myrtle Beach when the wreck happened. Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Jeff Gaskins said that the van swerved to avoid a trailer that lost a tire and hit a pickup truck head-on.

November 24, 2009

Several people near Boston who [thought they were getting an H1N1 vaccine got a shot for another strain of flu](#), WCVB-TV reported. The station said 15 Needham firefighters and several Needham residents were caught in the medical mix-up. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now warning health departments about the possible vaccination label confusion. The label of the seasonal flu vaccination had H1N1 on the label as one of the strains targeted -- but not the current pandemic H1N1 strain. Paul Buckley, the Needham Fire Department chief, was among those who went Monday to get the actual H1N1 vaccine. Buckley had been notified by the department that the vaccination he originally got, along with a number of his colleagues, was the seasonal flu vaccination by mistake. In all, 47 people were affected. The mistake left people confused and concerned. "Hopefully, we haven't had any issues in the past week where some of the people came in contact with the H1N1 virus or possibly got sick from it believing they were vaccinated when they actually weren't," Buckley said. The town's health department has been calling everyone to tell them about the mistake. Officials said it was harmless and amounted to getting a booster for the seasonal flu. Dr. Janice Berns said it is the first mistake like this that she has seen in her 40-year career in public health. "I think the label doesn't appear to be clear," she said. Health departments are now being alerted to the possibility of making this mistake.

November 30, 2009

At least two protesters chained themselves to a massive power generator that has been moving through the Upstate, Greenville County deputies said on Monday morning. The 880,000-pound generator is on its way to [Duke Energy's](#)  Cliffside Steam Station in Boiling Springs, N.C. An environmental group called Asheville Rising Tide said in a statement sent to FOX Carolina that the protesters are vowing to prevent the generator from reaching the coal plant. The Stator-brand generator entered the county at about noon on Nov. 20 near Princeton along Highway 25 and parked near the intersection with Interstate 85. The

transporter was scheduled to wind its way through the west side of Greenville before parking just south of Highway 11 on Nov. 22, but wet weather prevented the move. Deputies said that about a dozen protesters were at the site along Highway 25 on Monday morning. They said two to four of them had climbed on top of the generator and chained themselves to it. A sign reading "Stop Cliffside" was also seen hanging on the side of the rig. At least one of the protesters had been removed as of 9:30 a.m. A representative of Duke Energy said that they have seen a lot of interest from the public as the generator has moved along its route, but they have never had any protests before.